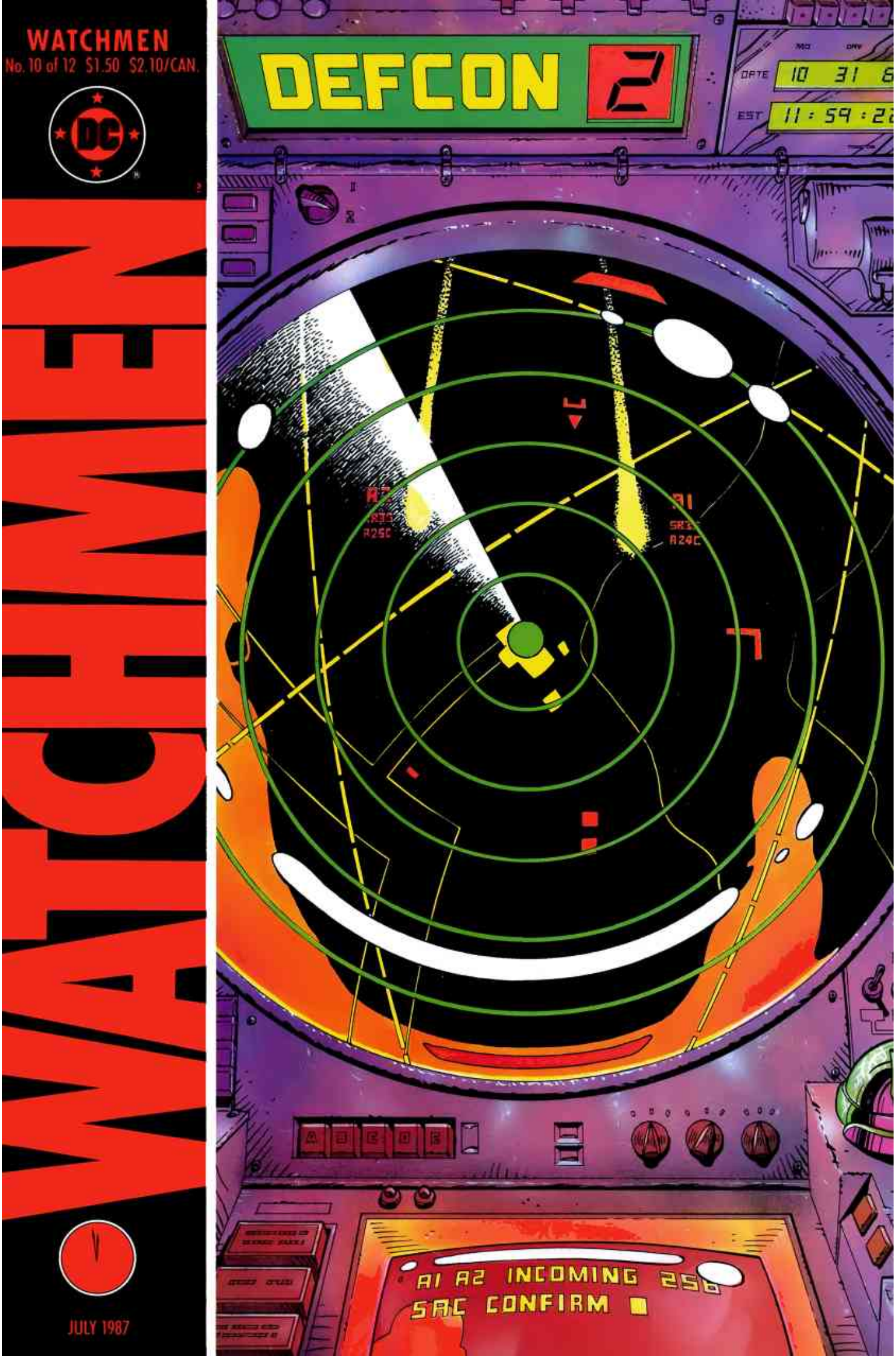
WATCHMEN
No. 10 of 12 $1.50 $2.10/CAN.



WATCHMEN

JULY 1987

WATCHMEN 10
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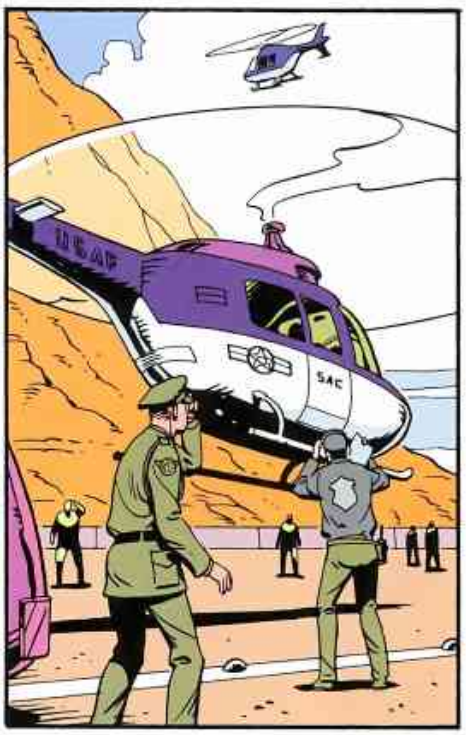
DEFCON 2
INCOMING AIR FORCE ONE, AIR FORCE TWO, CONFIRMED...
LANDING STRIP, THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ARE CONFIRMED. PLEASE CONFIRM 'COPTER RECEPTION ...
'COPTERS CONFIRMED.
2
USAF
1

TWO RIDERS WERE APPROACHING...

THEY'RE IN THE 'COPTERS.
'COPTERS PROCEED TO ENTRANCE ALPHA. ENTRANCE ALPHA, STAND BY...



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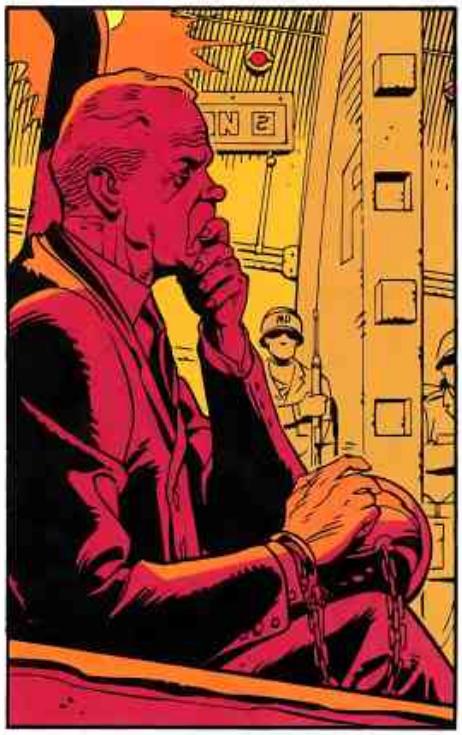
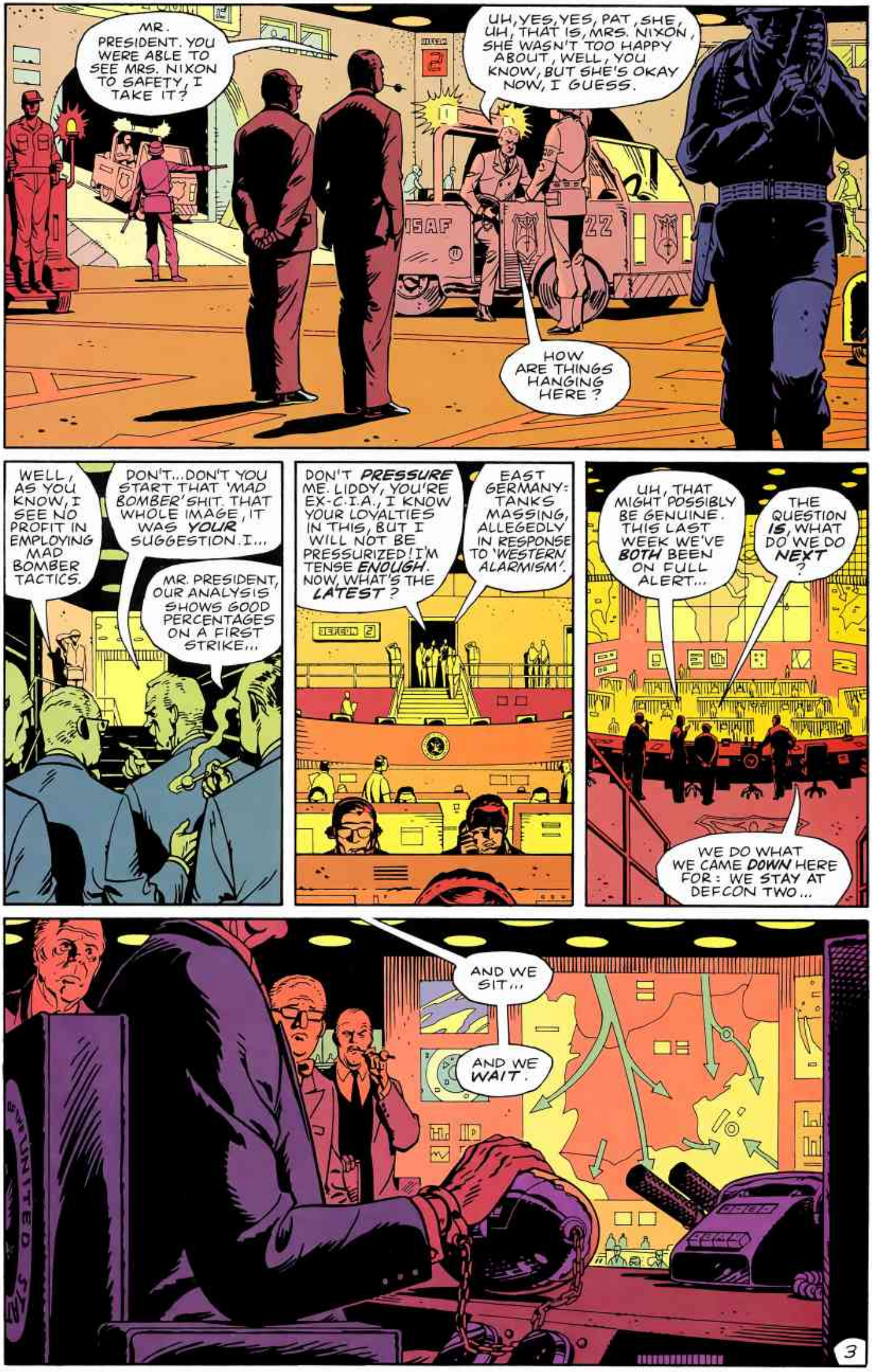
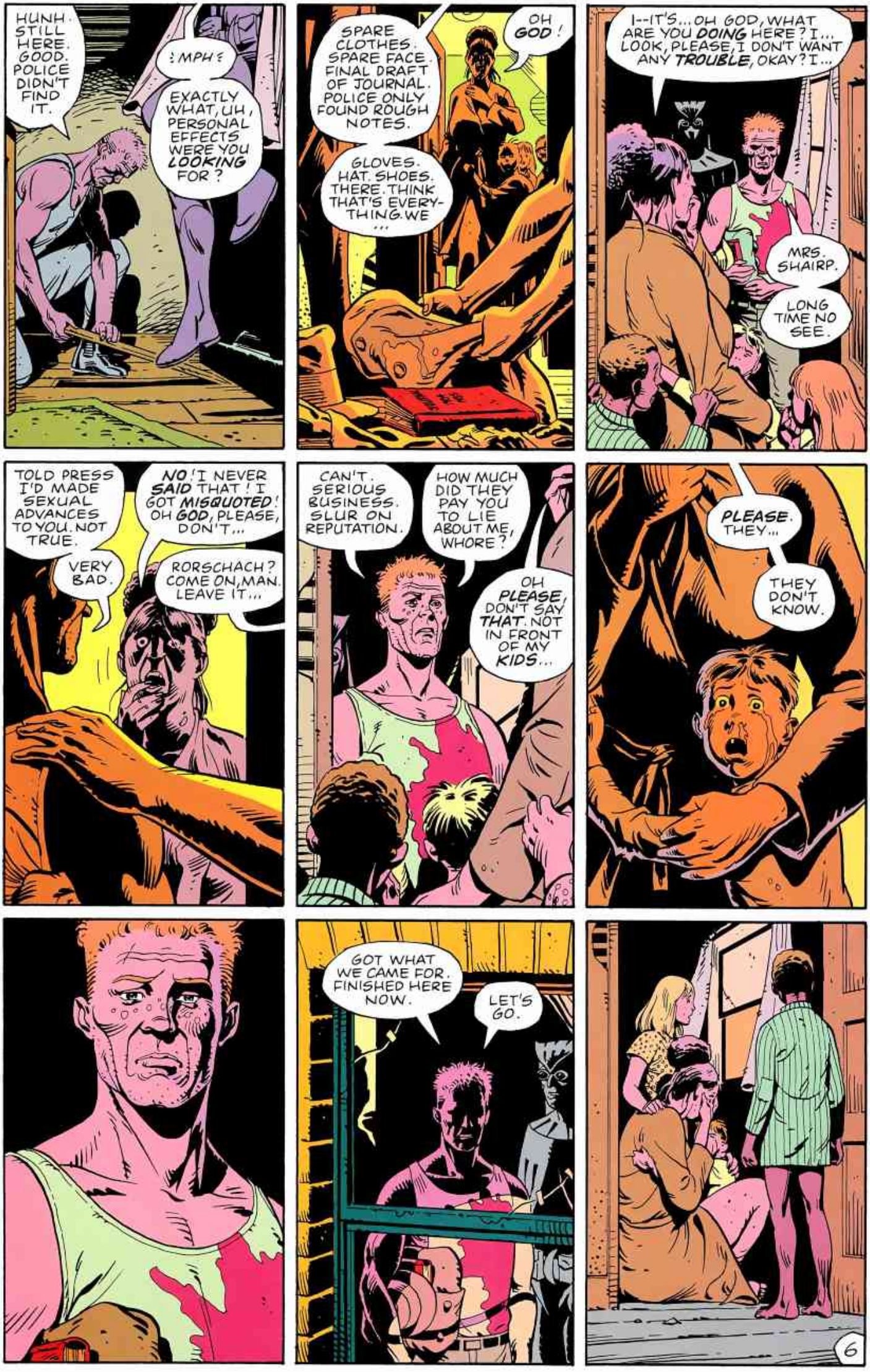


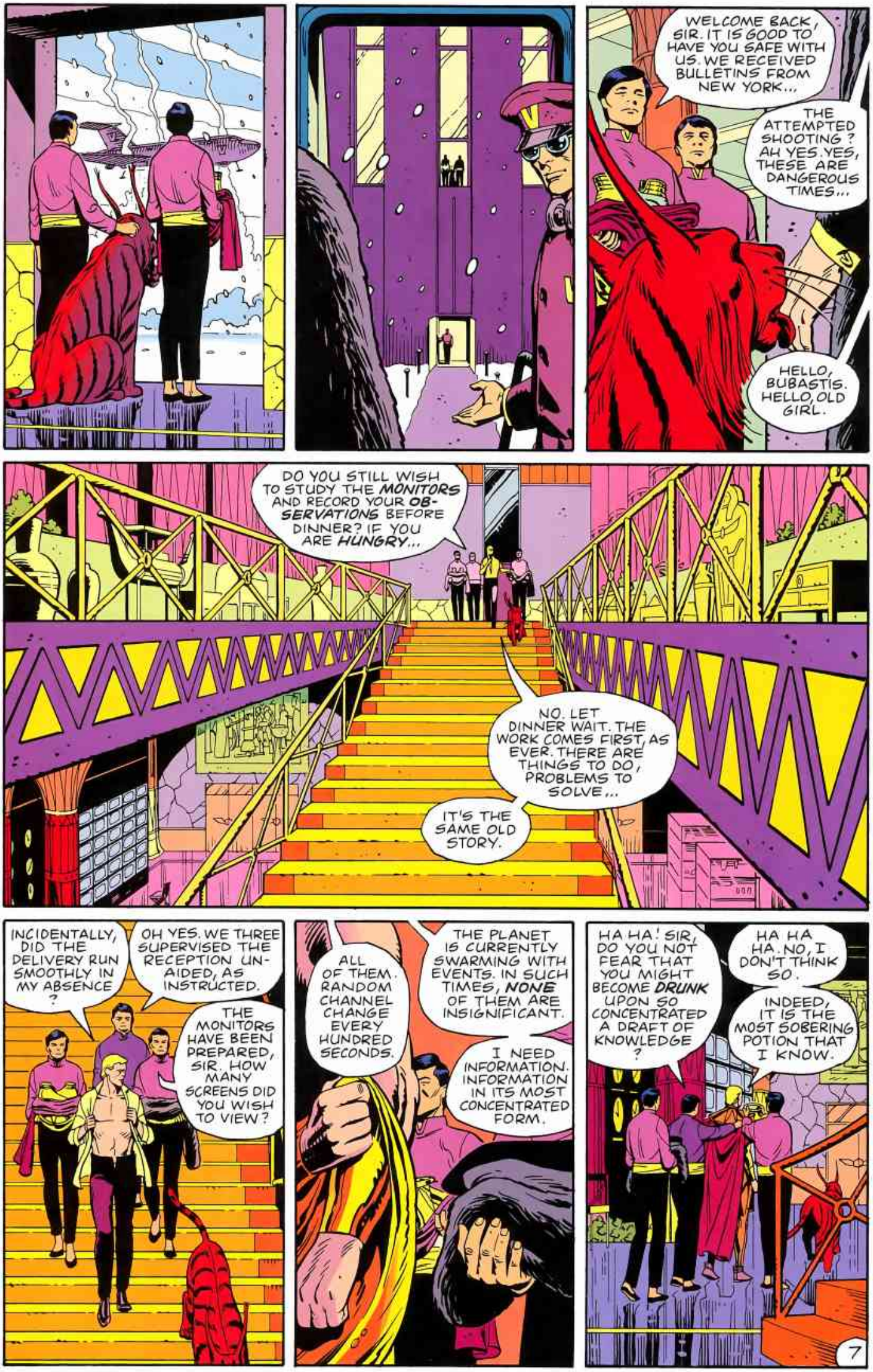
CARS ONE AND TWO NOW APPROACHING MAIN CONCOURSE...
THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY IS NOW INSIDE THE COMPLEX. ENTRANCE ALPHA REMAIN OPEN UNTIL DEFCON ONE IS ACHIEVED. MAIN CONCOURSE, ALL UNITS PREPARE TO RECEIVE VISITORS ...

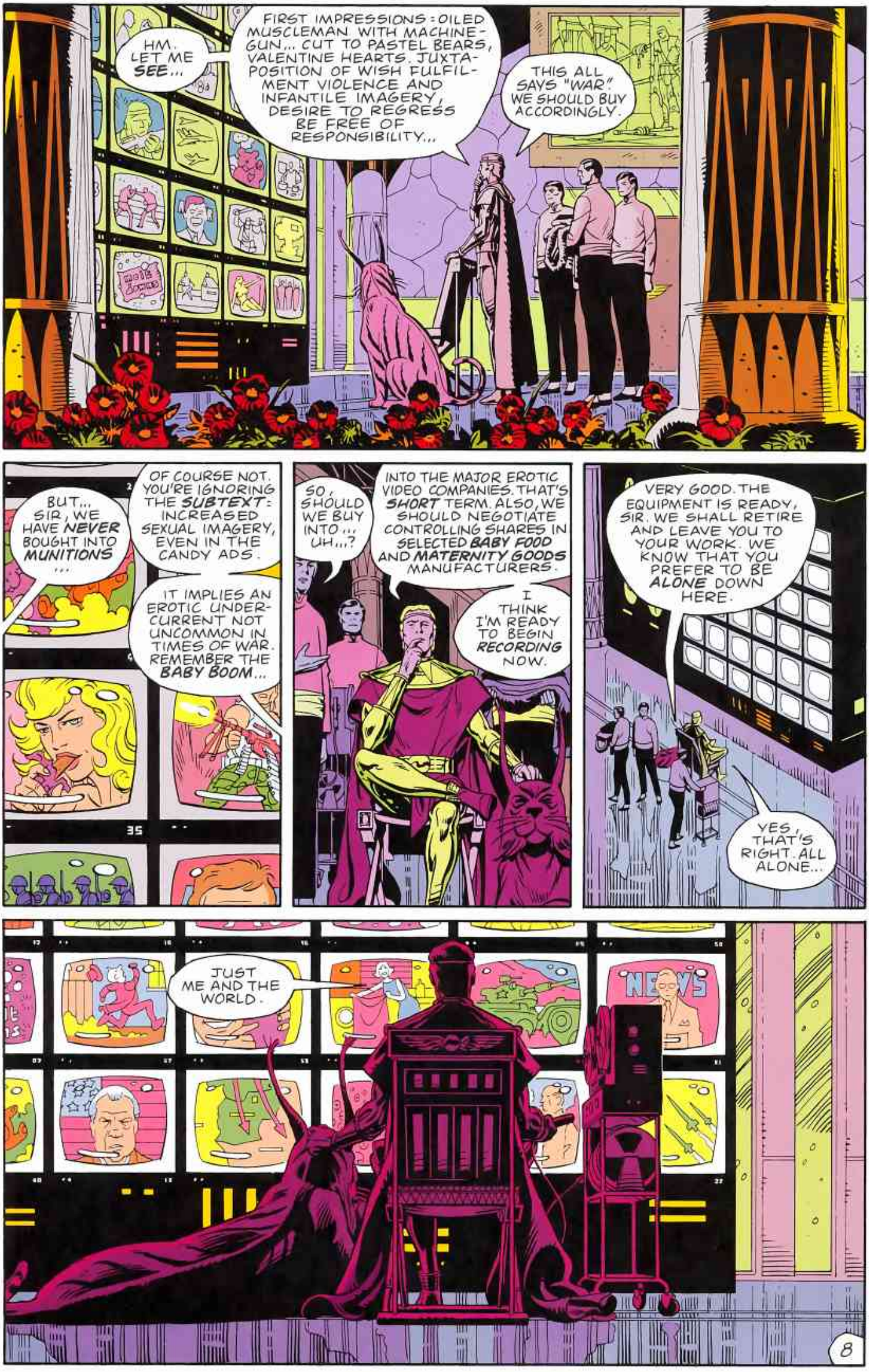

MR. PRESIDENT. YOU WERE ABLE TO SEE MRS. NIXON TO SAFETY, I TAKE IT?
UH, YES, YES, PAT, SHE, UH, THAT IS, MRS. NIXON, SHE WASN'T TOO HAPPY ABOUT, WELL, YOU KNOW, BUT SHE'S OKAY NOW, I GUESS.
HOW ARE THINGS HANGING HERE?
WELL, AS YOU KNOW, I SEE NO PROFIT IN EMPLOYING MAD BOMBER TACTICS.
DON'T... DON'T YOU START THAT 'MAD BOMBER' SHIT. THAT WHOLE IMAGE, IT WAS YOUR SUGGESTION. I...
MR. PRESIDENT, OUR ANALYSIS SHOWS GOOD PERCENTAGES ON A FIRST STRIKE...
DON'T PRESSURE ME. LIDDY, YOU'RE EX-C.I.A., I KNOW YOUR LOYALTIES IN THIS, BUT I WILL NOT BE PRESSURIZED! I'M TENSE ENOUGH. NOW, WHAT'S THE LATEST?
EAST GERMANY: TANKS MASSING, ALLEGEDLY IN RESPONSE TO 'WESTERN ALARMISM'.
DEFCON 2
UH, THAT MIGHT POSSIBLY BE GENUINE. THIS LAST WEEK WE'VE BOTH BEEN ON FULL ALERT...
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
WE DO WHAT WE CAME DOWN HERE FOR: WE STAY AT DEFCON TWO...
AND WE SIT...
AND WE WAIT.
UNITED STATES
3

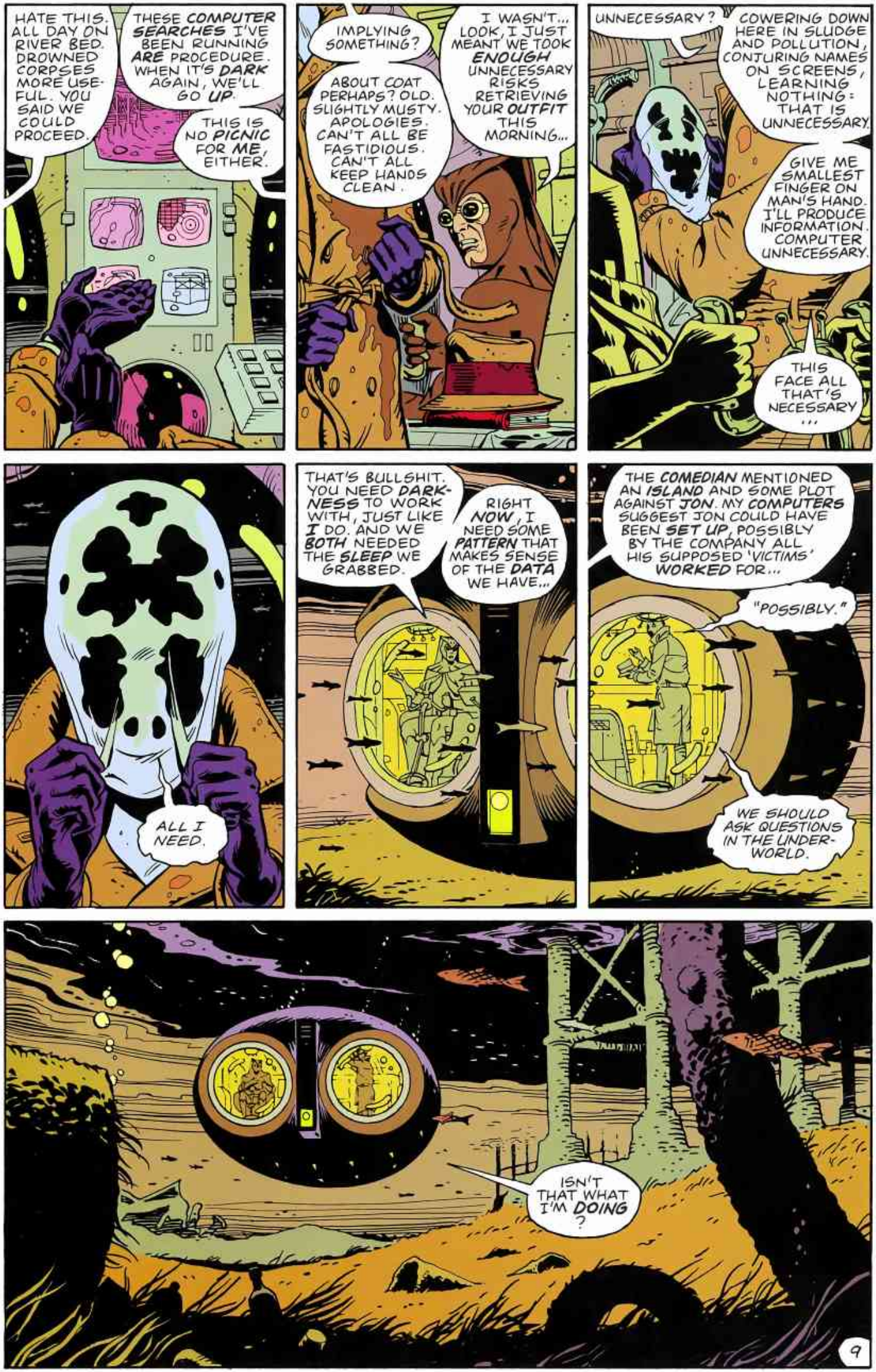
HOW MUCH LONGER? TIRED OF SKULKING DOWN HERE. IMPATIENT. WORK TO BE DONE.
RORSCHACH, WE JUST GOT YOU OUT OF PRISON. EVERYBODY'S LOOKING FOR US, AND UNLESS WE BOTH WANT TO GO BACK THERE WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
DOWN HERE HOURS ALREADY. NEED TO COLLECT SPARE UNIFORM AND PERSONAL EFFECTS, SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING. WE'RE NEAR THE WHARVES BACKING ONTO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD RIGHT NOW.
I'M TAKING HER UP.
AT LAST.
IT FEELS GOOD TO BE WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN, DANIEL. PITY MISS JUSPECZYK COULDN'T STAY WITH US.
YES.
YES, IT'S A PITY.
4

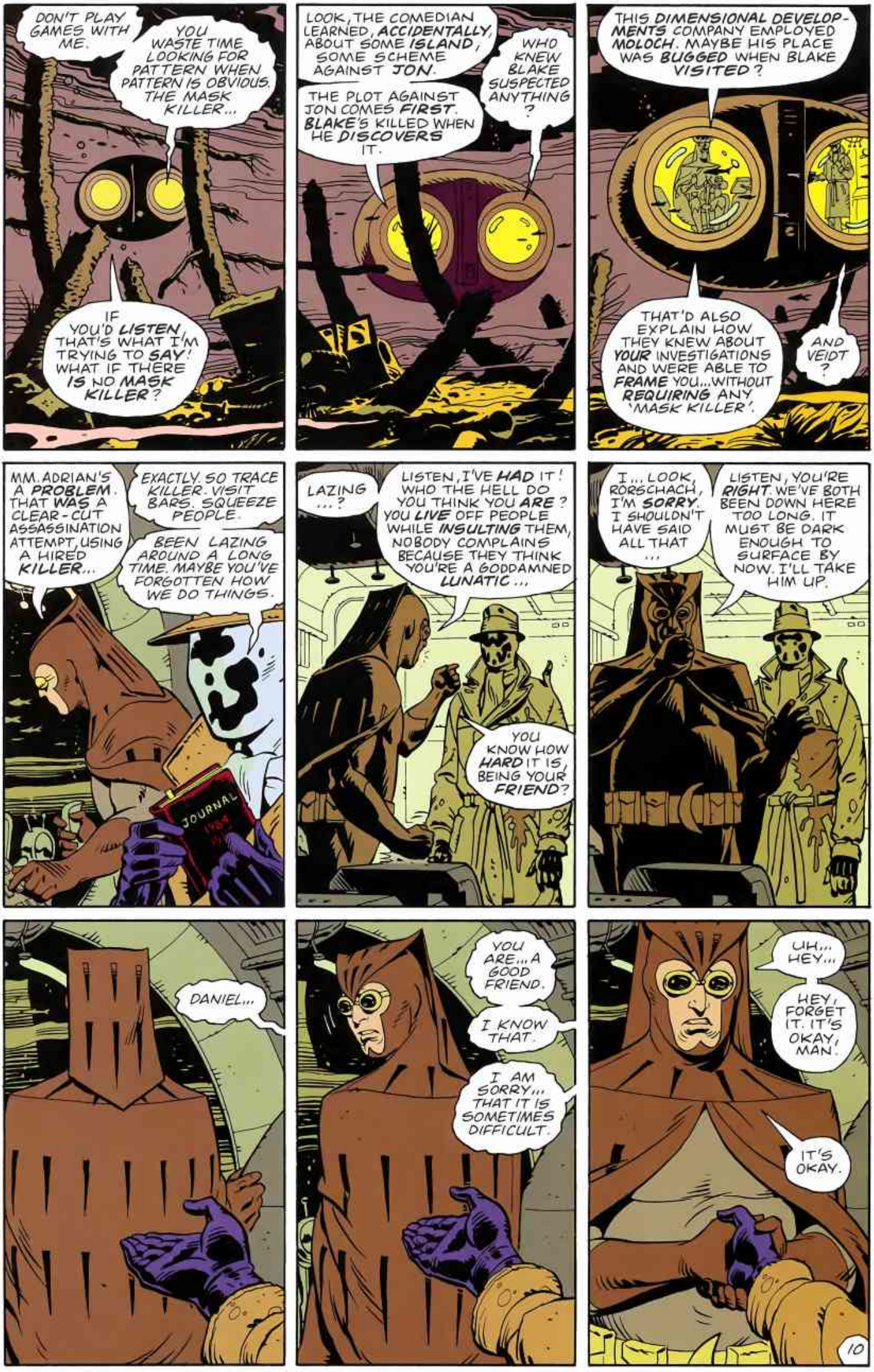
SO, ASSUMING YOUR SPARE OUTFIT'S WHERE YOU LEFT IT, WHERE DO WE START?
MAKE INQUIRIES AMONGST UNDERWORLD. WHATEVER'S BEHIND ELIMINATION OF MASKED HEROES IS SOMETHING BIG. MAKES RIPPLES. OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE...
SOMEBODY KNOWS.
YEAH, I GUESS SO. ALSO, WITH THIS MASK KILLER THING, WE SHOULD CONTACT ADRIAN.
HURN. YES, PERHAPS HE'LL BE LESS DISMISSIVE OF IDEA AFTER ATTEMPT ON OWN LIFE...
DOWN THIS WAY. REAR FIRE ESCAPE.
THE THING IS, WE'VE GOT SO LITTLE TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHO'S DOING THIS. I MEAN, NEUTRALIZING JON, FRAMING YOU, WE'RE TALKING SOMEBODY MAJOR.
YES. ALL ACCOMPLISHED SO EASILY. LESSON IN VULNERABILITY. MUST BE MORE CAREFUL IN FUTURE.
FUTURE?
WHAT FUTURE?
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
THE END IS NIGH
THAT'S MY WHOLE POINT: WE'RE LOOKING AT WORLD WAR THREE WITHIN THE WEEK!
I MEAN, WHAT DO WE DO? THE STAKES ARE SO HIGH AND HUMANITY IS SO CLOSE TO THE EDGE...
SOME OF US HAVE ALWAYS LIVED ON EDGE, DANIEL. IT IS POSSIBLE TO SURVIVE THERE IF YOU OBSERVE RULES:
JUST HANG ON BY FINGERNAILS...
...AND NEVER LOOK DOWN.
5


HUNH. STILL HERE. GOOD. POLICE DIDN'T FIND IT.
:MPH:
EXACTLY WHAT, UH, PERSONAL EFFECTS WERE YOU LOOKING FOR?
OH GOD!
SPARE CLOTHES. SPARE FACE. FINAL DRAFT OF JOURNAL. POLICE ONLY FOUND ROUGH NOTES.
GLOVES. HAT. SHOES. THERE. THINK THAT'S EVERY-THING. WE ...
I--IT'S... OH GOD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I... LOOK, PLEASE, I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE, OKAY? I...
MRS. SHAIRP.
LONG TIME NO SEE.
TOLD PRESS I'D MADE SEXUAL ADVANCES TO YOU. NOT TRUE.
NO! I NEVER SAID THAT! I GOT MISQUOTED! OH GOD, PLEASE, DON'T...
VERY BAD.
RORSCHACH? COME ON, MAN. LEAVE IT...
CAN'T. SERIOUS BUSINESS. SLUR ON REPUTATION.
HOW MUCH DID THEY PAY YOU TO LIE ABOUT ME, WHORE?
OH PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT. NOT IN FRONT OF MY KIDS...
PLEASE. THEY...
THEY DON'T KNOW.
GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR. FINISHED HERE NOW.
LET'S GO.
6

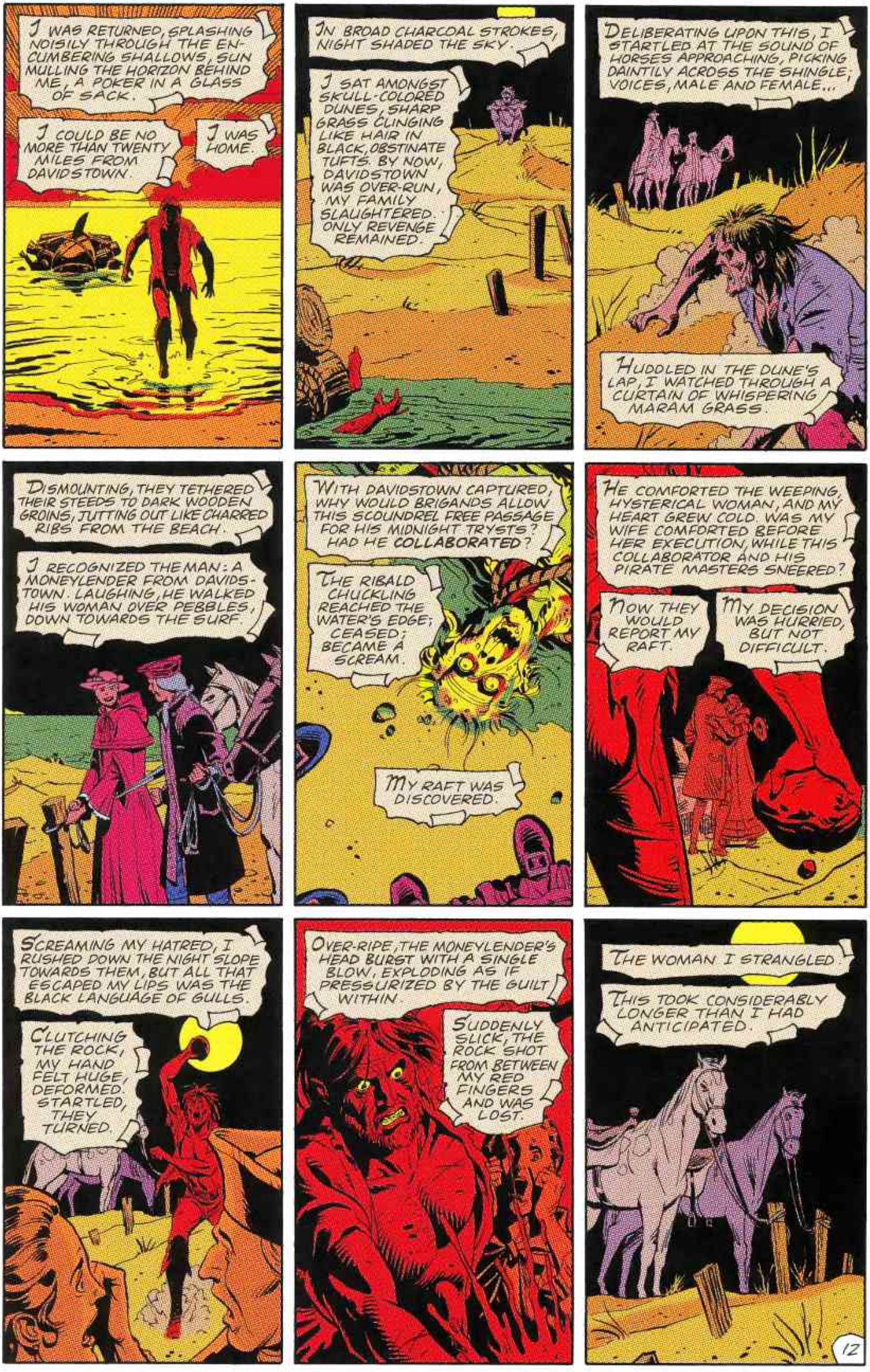

WELCOME BACK, SIR. IT IS GOOD TO HAVE YOU SAFE WITH US. WE RECEIVED BULLETINS FROM NEW YORK...
THE ATTEMPTED SHOOTING? AH YES. YES, THESE ARE DANGEROUS TIMES...
HELLO, BUBASTIS. HELLO, OLD GIRL.
DO YOU STILL WISH TO STUDY THE MONITORS AND RECORD YOUR OBSERVATIONS BEFORE DINNER? IF YOU ARE HUNGRY...
NO. LET DINNER WAIT. THE WORK COMES FIRST, AS EVER. THERE ARE THINGS TO DO, PROBLEMS TO SOLVE...
IT'S THE SAME OLD STORY.
INCIDENTALLY, DID THE DELIVERY RUN SMOOTHLY IN MY ABSENCE?
OH YES. WE THREE SUPERVISED THE RECEPTION UNAIDED, AS INSTRUCTED.
THE MONITORS HAVE BEEN PREPARED, SIR. HOW MANY SCREENS DID YOU WISH TO VIEW?
ALL OF THEM. RANDOM CHANNEL CHANGE EVERY HUNDRED SECONDS.
THE PLANET IS CURRENTLY SWARMING WITH EVENTS. IN SUCH TIMES, NONE OF THEM ARE INSIGNIFICANT.
I NEED INFORMATION. INFORMATION IN ITS MOST CONCENTRATED FORM.
HA HA! SIR, DO YOU NOT FEAR THAT YOU MIGHT BECOME DRUNK UPON SO CONCENTRATED A DRAFT OF KNOWLEDGE?
HA HA HA. NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
INDEED, IT IS THE MOST SOBERING POTION THAT I KNOW.
7

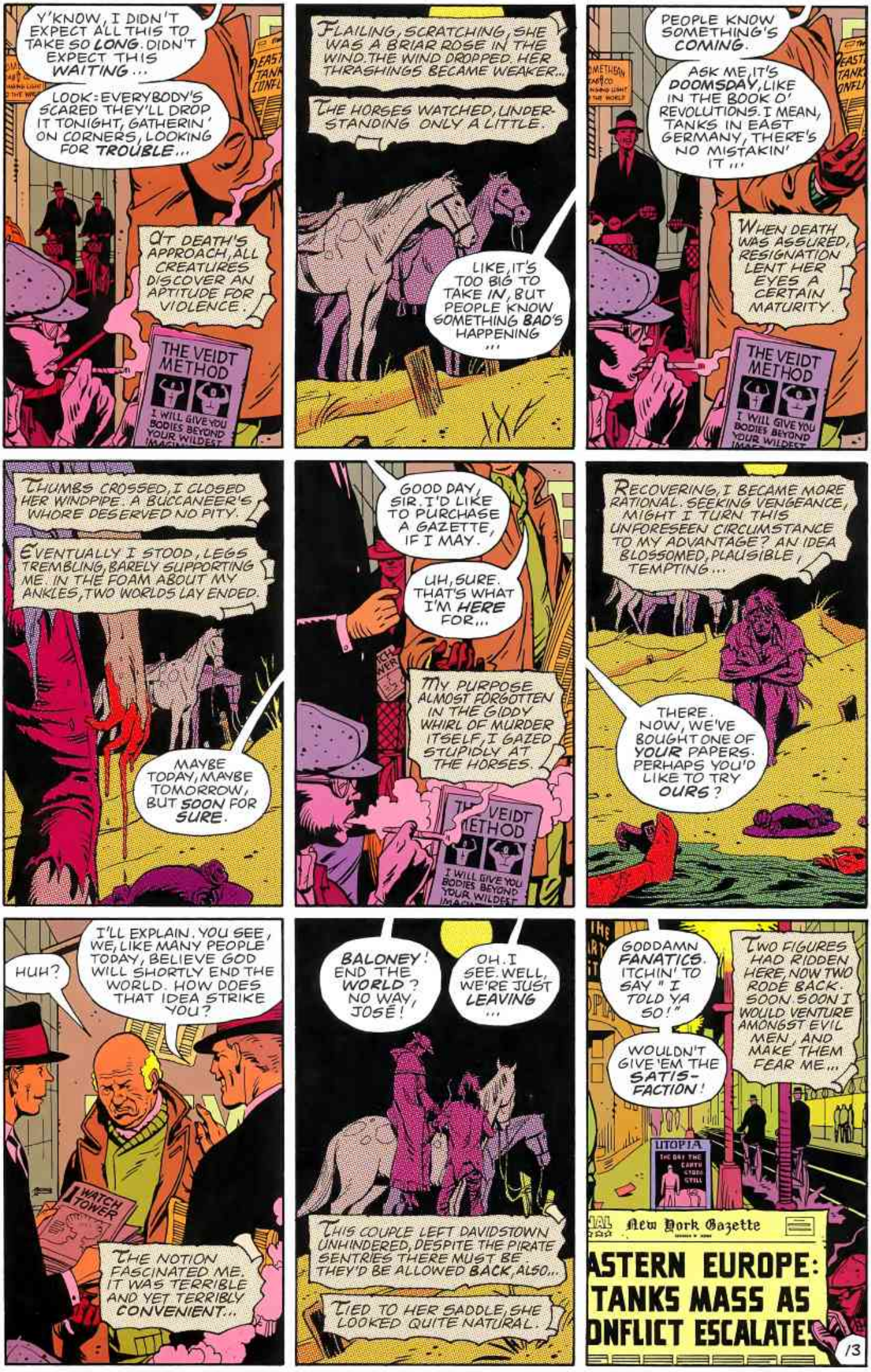

HM. LET ME SEE...
FIRST IMPRESSIONS: OILED MUSCLEMAN WITH MACHINE-GUN... CUT TO PASTEL BEARS, VALENTINE HEARTS. JUXTAPOSITION OF WISH FULFILLMENT VIOLENCE AND INFANTILE IMAGERY, DESIRE TO REGRESS BE FREE OF RESPONSIBILITY...
THIS ALL SAYS "WAR". WE SHOULD BUY ACCORDINGLY.
BUT... SIR, WE HAVE NEVER BOUGHT INTO MUNITIONS ...
OF COURSE NOT. YOU'RE IGNORING THE SUBTEXT: INCREASED SEXUAL IMAGERY, EVEN IN THE CANDY ADS.
IT IMPLIES AN EROTIC UNDERCURRENT NOT UNCOMMON IN TIMES OF WAR. REMEMBER THE BABY BOOM...
35
SO, SHOULD WE BUY INTO ... UH...?
INTO THE MAJOR EROTIC VIDEO COMPANIES. THAT'S SHORT TERM. ALSO, WE SHOULD NEGOTIATE CONTROLLING SHARES IN SELECTED BABY FOOD AND MATERNITY GOODS MANUFACTURERS.
I THINK I'M READY TO BEGIN RECORDING NOW.
VERY GOOD. THE EQUIPMENT IS READY, SIR. WE SHALL RETIRE AND LEAVE YOU TO YOUR WORK. WE KNOW THAT YOU PREFER TO BE ALONE DOWN HERE.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT. ALL ALONE...
JUST ME AND THE WORLD.
NEWS
8


HATE THIS. ALL DAY ON RIVER BED. DROWNED CORPSES MORE USEFUL. YOU SAID WE COULD PROCEED.
THESE COMPUTER SEARCHES I'VE BEEN RUNNING ARE PROCEDURE. WHEN IT'S DARK AGAIN, WE'LL GO UP.
THIS IS NO PICNIC FOR ME, EITHER.
IMPLYING SOMETHING?
I WASN'T... LOOK, I JUST MEANT WE TOOK ENOUGH UNNECESSARY RISKS RETRIEVING YOUR OUTFIT THIS MORNING...
ABOUT COAT PERHAPS? OLD. SLIGHTLY MUSTY. APOLOGIES. CAN'T ALL BE FASTIDIOUS. CAN'T ALL KEEP HANDS CLEAN.
UNNECESSARY?
COWERING DOWN HERE IN SLUDGE AND POLLUTION, CONJURING NAMES ON SCREENS, LEARNING NOTHING: THAT IS UNNECESSARY.
GIVE ME SMALLEST FINGER ON MAN'S HAND. I'LL PRODUCE INFORMATION. COMPUTER UNNECESSARY.
THIS FACE ALL THAT'S NECESSARY ...
ALL I NEED.
THAT'S BULLSHIT. YOU NEED DARKNESS TO WORK WITH, JUST LIKE I DO. AND WE BOTH NEEDED THE SLEEP WE GRABBED.
RIGHT NOW, I NEED SOME PATTERN THAT MAKES SENSE OF THE DATA WE HAVE...
THE COMEDIAN MENTIONED AN ISLAND AND SOME PLOT AGAINST JON. MY COMPUTERS SUGGEST JON COULD HAVE BEEN SET UP, POSSIBLY BY THE COMPANY ALL HIS SUPPOSED 'VICTIMS' WORKED FOR...
"POSSIBLY."
WE SHOULD ASK QUESTIONS IN THE UNDERWORLD.
ISN'T THAT WHAT I'M DOING?


DON'T PLAY GAMES WITH ME.
YOU WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR PATTERN WHEN PATTERN IS OBVIOUS. THE MASK KILLER...
IF YOU'D LISTEN, THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY! WHAT IF THERE IS NO MASK KILLER?
LOOK, THE COMEDIAN LEARNED, ACCIDENTALLY, ABOUT SOME ISLAND, SOME SCHEME AGAINST JON.
WHO KNEW BLAKE SUSPECTED ANYTHING?
THE PLOT AGAINST JON COMES FIRST. BLAKE'S KILLED WHEN HE DISCOVERS IT.
THIS DIMENSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS COMPANY EMPLOYED MOLOCH. MAYBE HIS PLACE WAS BUGGED WHEN BLAKE VISITED?
THAT'D ALSO EXPLAIN HOW THEY KNEW ABOUT YOUR INVESTIGATIONS AND WERE ABLE TO FRAME YOU...WITHOUT REQUIRING ANY 'MASK KILLER'.
AND VEIDT?
MM. ADRIAN'S A PROBLEM. THAT WAS A CLEAR-CUT ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, USING A HIRED KILLER...
EXACTLY. SO TRACE KILLER. VISIT BARS. SQUEEZE PEOPLE.
BEEN LAZING AROUND A LONG TIME. MAYBE YOU'VE FORGOTTEN HOW WE DO THINGS.
JOURNAL
LAZING ...?
LISTEN, I'VE HAD IT! WHO THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? YOU LIVE OFF PEOPLE WHILE INSULTING THEM, NOBODY COMPLAINS BECAUSE THEY THINK YOU'RE A GODDAMNED LUNATIC...
YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS, BEING YOUR FRIEND?
I... LOOK, RORSCHACH, I'M SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ALL THAT ...
LISTEN, YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'VE BOTH BEEN DOWN HERE TOO LONG. IT MUST BE DARK ENOUGH TO SURFACE BY NOW. I'LL TAKE HIM UP.
DANIEL...
YOU ARE... A GOOD FRIEND.
I KNOW THAT.
I AM SORRY... THAT IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT.
UH... HEY...
HEY, FORGET IT. IT'S OKAY, MAN.
IT'S OKAY.

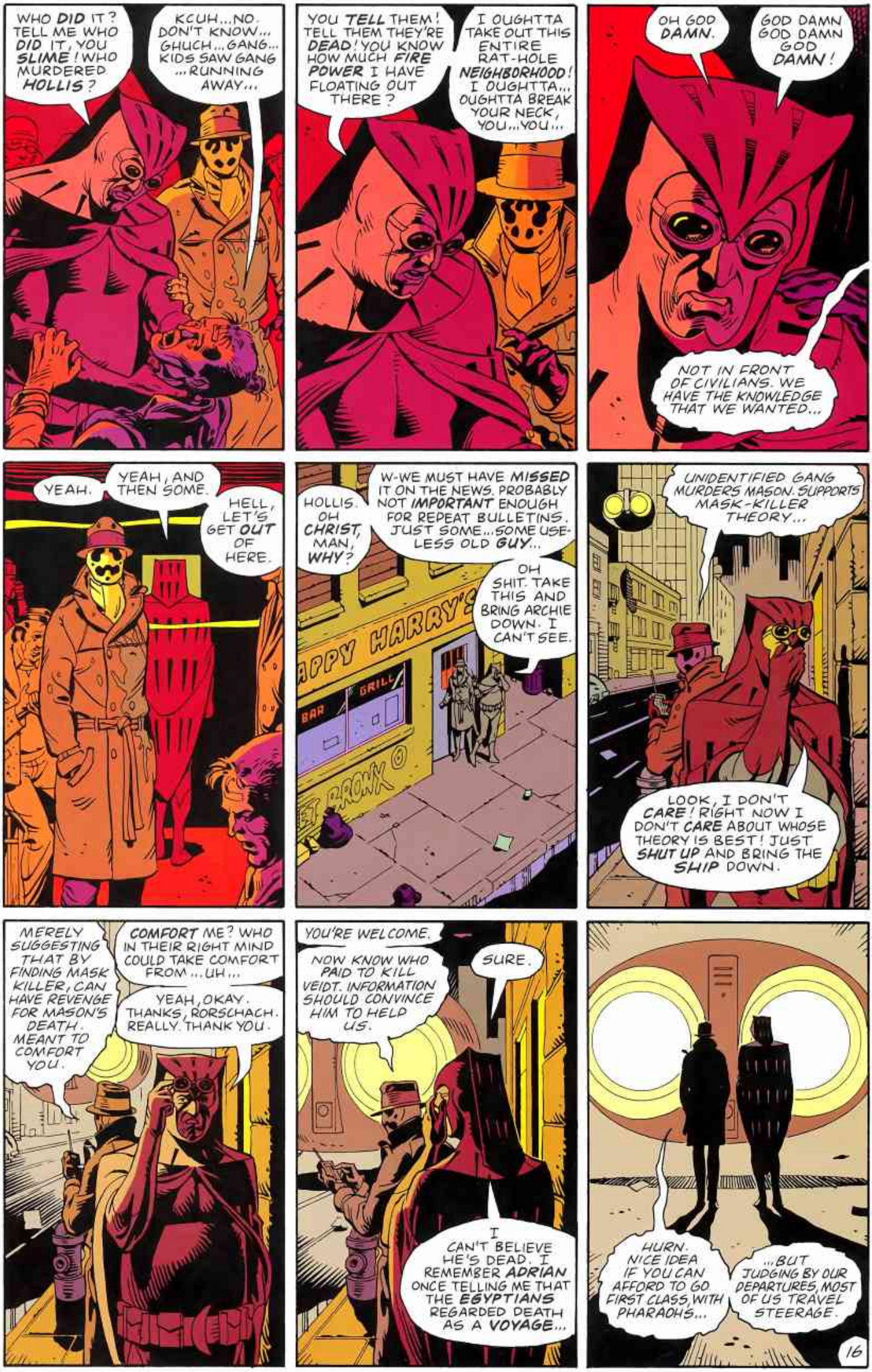
UHH...
WELL, ANYWAY, THERE'S...
:NG:
...THERE'S NO SENSE WAITING DOWN HERE ANY LONGER.
I MEAN, DOWN HERE IN THIS JUNK GARDEN, IS THIS ANY PLACE TO HOLD THE REUNION OF THE NITE OWL-RORSCHACH TEAM?
LET'S GO UP TO VISIT THE CRIMINAL FRATERNITY... AND REALLY START PLUMBING THE DEPTHS.
Y'KNOW, SOME NICE STRAIGHTFORWARD BRUTALITY, AFTER WADING KNEE-DEEP IN THIS CONSPIRACY WEIRDNESS FOR SO LONG...
HELL, IT'LL BE LIKE COMING HOME.

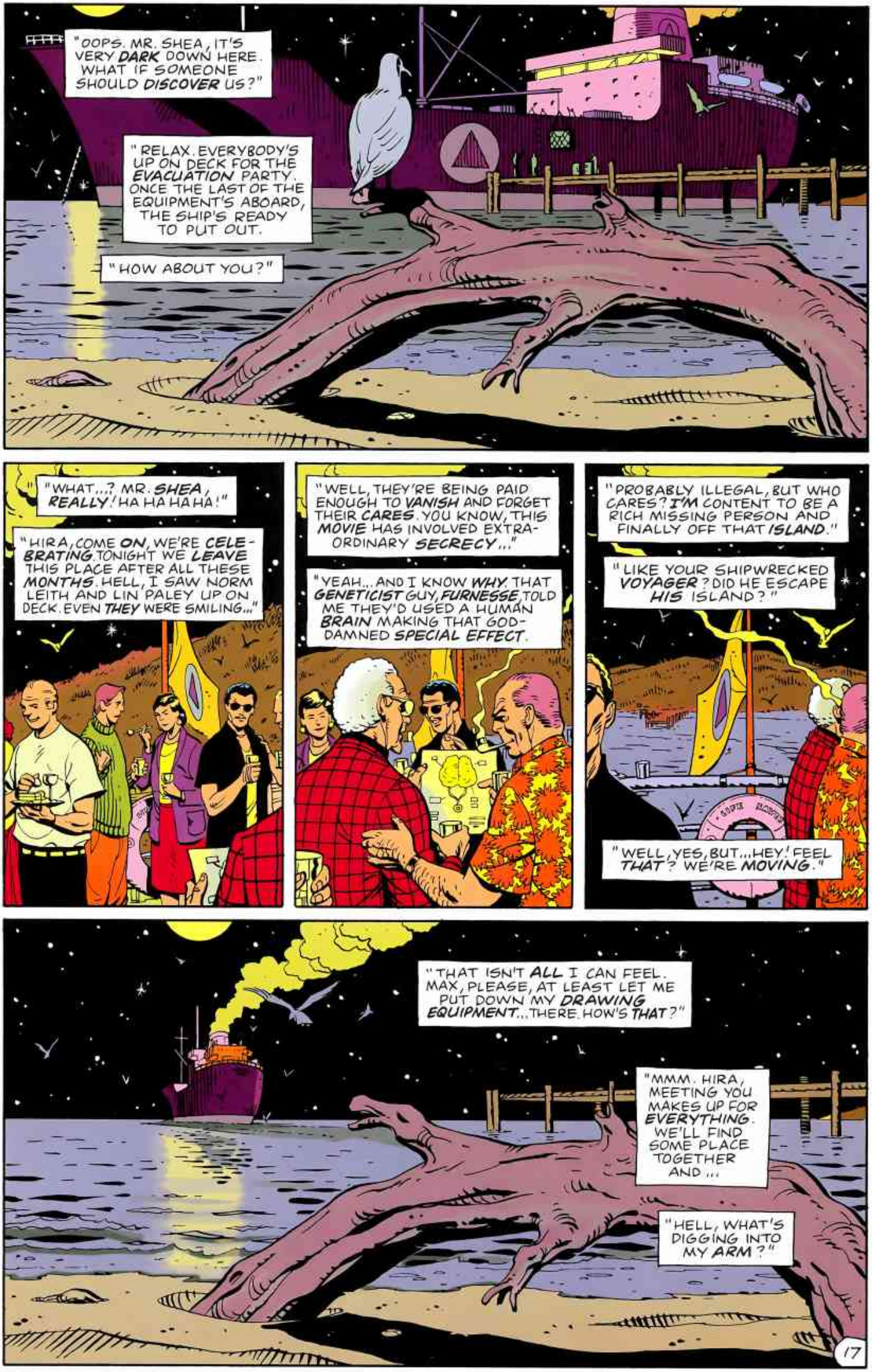

I WAS RETURNED, SPLASHING NOISILY THROUGH THE ENCUMBERING SHALLOWS, SUN MULLING THE HORIZON BEHIND ME, A POKER IN A GLASS OF SACK.
I COULD BE NO MORE THAN TWENTY MILES FROM DAVIDSTOWN.
I WAS HOME.
IN BROAD CHARCOAL STROKES, NIGHT SHADED THE SKY.
I SAT AMONGST SKULL-COLORED DUNES, SHARP GRASS CLINGING LIKE HAIR IN BLACK, OBSTINATE TUFTS. BY NOW, DAVIDSTOWN WAS OVER-RUN, MY FAMILY SLAUGHTERED. ONLY REVENGE REMAINED.
DELIBERATING UPON THIS, I STARTLED AT THE SOUND OF HORSES APPROACHING, PICKING DAINTILY ACROSS THE SHINGLE; VOICES, MALE AND FEMALE...
HUDDLED IN THE DUNE'S LAP, I WATCHED THROUGH A CURTAIN OF WHISPERING MARAM GRASS.
DISMOUNTING, THEY TETHERED THEIR STEEDS TO DARK WOODEN GROINS, JUTTING OUT LIKE CHARRED RIBS FROM THE BEACH.
I RECOGNIZED THE MAN: A MONEYLENDER FROM DAVIDSTOWN. LAUGHING, HE WALKED HIS WOMAN OVER PEBBLES, DOWN TOWARDS THE SURF.
WITH DAVIDSTOWN CAPTURED, WHY WOULD BRIGANDS ALLOW THIS SCOUNDREL FREE PASSAGE FOR HIS MIDNIGHT TRYSTS? HAD HE COLLABORATED?
THE RIBALD CHUCKLING REACHED THE WATER'S EDGE; CEASED; BECAME A SCREAM.
MY RAFT WAS DISCOVERED.
HE COMFORTED THE WEEPING HYSTERICAL WOMAN, AND MY HEART GREW COLD. WAS MY WIFE COMFORTED BEFORE HER EXECUTION, WHILE THIS COLLABORATOR AND HIS PIRATE MASTERS SNEERED?
NOW THEY WOULD REPORT MY RAFT.
MY DECISION WAS HURRIED, BUT NOT DIFFICULT.
SCREAMING MY HATRED, I RUSHED DOWN THE NIGHT SLOPE TOWARDS THEM, BUT ALL THAT ESCAPED MY LIPS WAS THE BLACK LANGUAGE OF GULLS.
CLUTCHING THE ROCK, MY HAND FELT HUGE, DEFORMED. STARTLED, THEY TURNED.
OVER-RIPE, THE MONEYLENDER'S HEAD BURST WITH A SINGLE BLOW, EXPLODING AS IF PRESSURIZED BY THE GUILT WITHIN.
SUDDENLY SLICK, THE ROCK SHOT FROM BETWEEN MY RED FINGERS AND WAS LOST.
THE WOMAN I STRANGLED.
THIS TOOK CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN I HAD ANTICIPATED.
12

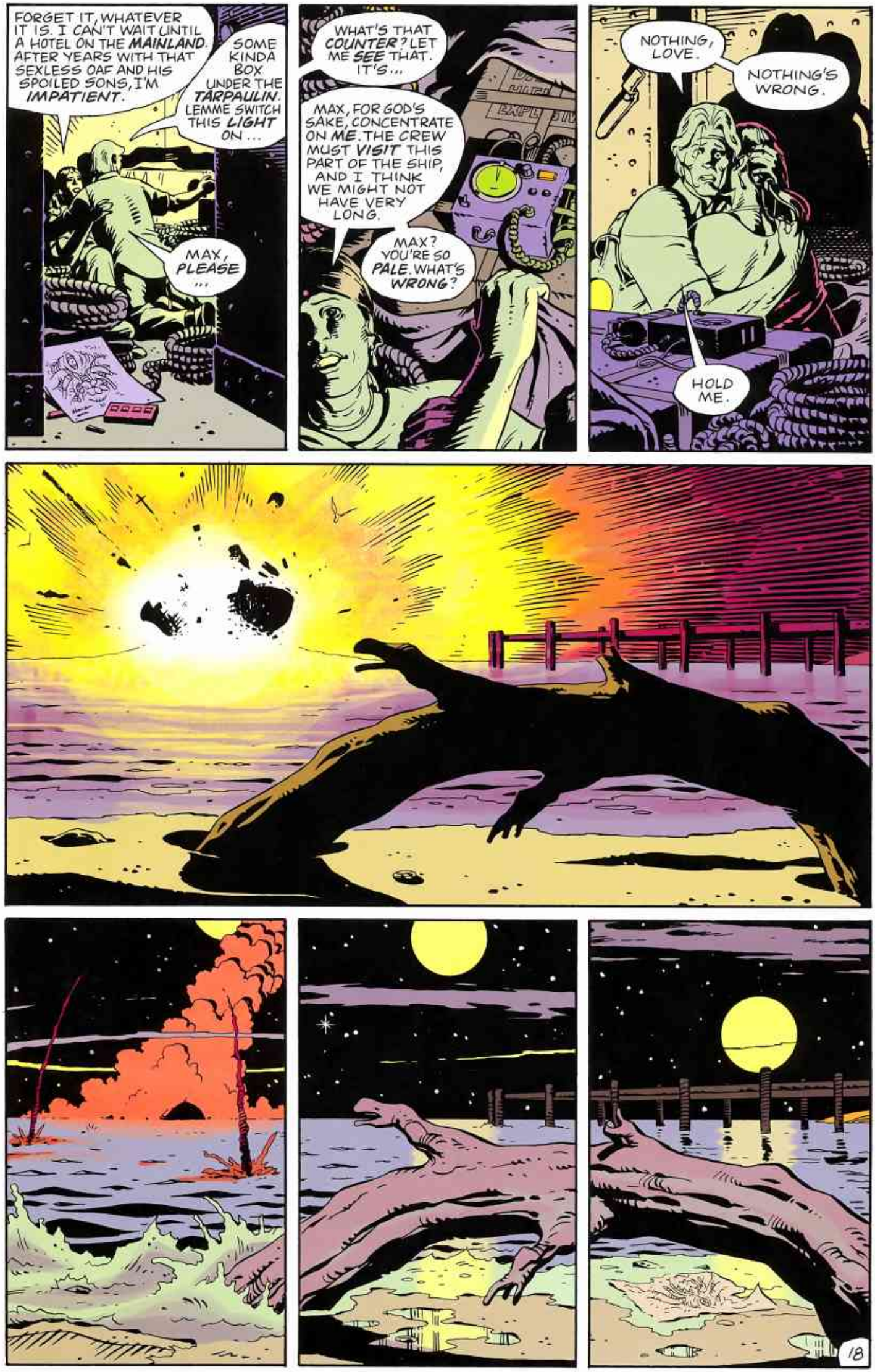

Y'KNOW, I DIDN'T EXPECT ALL THIS TO TAKE SO LONG. DIDN'T EXPECT THIS WAITING...
LOOK: EVERYBODY'S SCARED THEY'LL DROP IT TONIGHT, GATHERIN' ON CORNERS, LOOKING FOR TROUBLE...
AT DEATH'S APPROACH, ALL CREATURES DISCOVER AN APTITUDE FOR VIOLENCE.
THE VEIDT METHOD
I WILL GIVE YOU BODIES BEYOND YOUR WILDEST
FLAILING, SCRATCHING, SHE WAS A BRIAR ROSE IN THE WIND. THE WIND DROPPED. HER THRASHINGS BECAME WEAKER...
THE HORSES WATCHED, UNDERSTANDING ONLY A LITTLE.
LIKE, IT'S TOO BIG TO TAKE IN, BUT PEOPLE KNOW SOMETHING BAD'S HAPPENING ...
PEOPLE KNOW SOMETHING'S COMING.
ASK ME, IT'S DOOMSDAY, LIKE IN THE BOOK O' REVOLUTIONS. I MEAN, TANKS IN EAST GERMANY, THERE'S NO MISTAKIN' IT...
WHEN DEATH WAS ASSURED, RESIGNATION LENT HER EYES A CERTAIN MATURITY.
THE VEIDT METHOD
I WILL GIVE YOU BODIES BEYOND YOUR WILDEST
THUMBS CROSSED, I CLOSED HER WINDPIPE. A BUCCANEER'S WHORE DESERVED NO PITY.
EVENTUALLY I STOOD, LEGS TREMBLING, BARELY SUPPORTING ME. IN THE FOAM ABOUT MY ANKLES, TWO WORLDS LAY ENDED.
MAYBE TODAY, MAYBE TOMORROW, BUT SOON FOR SURE.
GOOD DAY, SIR. I'D LIKE TO PURCHASE A GAZETTE, IF I MAY.
UH, SURE. THAT'S WHAT I'M HERE FOR...
MY PURPOSE ALMOST FORGOTTEN IN THE GIDDY WHIRL OF MURDER ITSELF, I GAZED STUPIDLY AT THE HORSES.
VEIDT METHOD
I WILL GIVE YOU BODIES BEYOND YOUR WILDEST
RECOVERING, I BECAME MORE RATIONAL. SEEKING VENGEANCE, MIGHT I TURN THIS UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCE TO MY ADVANTAGE? AN IDEA BLOSSOMED, PLAUSIBLE, TEMPTING...
THERE. NOW, WE'VE BOUGHT ONE OF YOUR PAPERS. PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO TRY OURS?
HUH?
I'LL EXPLAIN. YOU SEE, WE, LIKE MANY PEOPLE TODAY, BELIEVE GOD WILL SHORTLY END THE WORLD. HOW DOES THAT IDEA STRIKE YOU?
WATCH TOWER
THE NOTION FASCINATED ME. IT WAS TERRIBLE AND YET TERRIBLY CONVENIENT...
BALONEY! END THE WORLD? NO WAY, JOSÉ!
OH. I SEE. WELL, WE'RE JUST LEAVING ...
THIS COUPLE LEFT DAVIDSTOWN UNHINDERED, DESPITE THE PIRATE SENTRIES THERE MUST BE. THEY'D BE ALLOWED BACK, ALSO...
TIED TO HER SADDLE, SHE LOOKED QUITE NATURAL.
GODDAMN FANATICS. ITCHIN' TO SAY "I TOLD YA SO!"
WOULDN'T GIVE 'EM THE SATIS-FACTION!
TWO FIGURES HAD RIDDEN HERE, NOW TWO RODE BACK. SOON, SOON I WOULD VENTURE AMONGST EVIL MEN, AND MAKE THEM FEAR ME...
UTOPIA
THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL
New York Gazette
ASTERN EUROPE: TANKS MASS AS ONFLICT ESCALATES
13

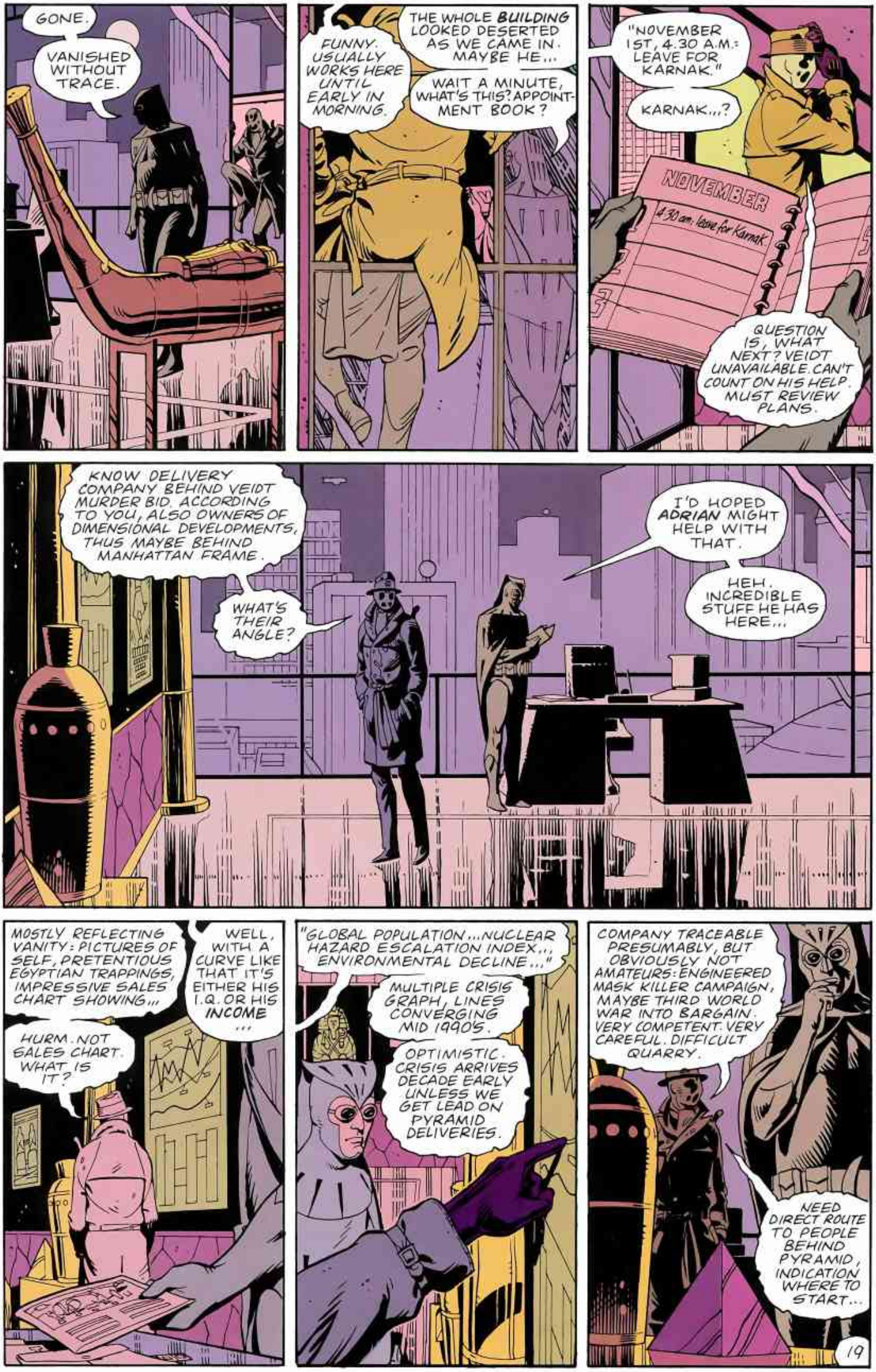
OH NO.
OH YES.
MISSED YOU WHILE IN PRISON, BOYS. FEELS GOOD TO BE BACK.
VISITED TWO BARS BEFORE THIS. YOU MAY HAVE HEARD AMBULANCES. HOPEFULLY, LUCKIER HERE.
NEED INFORMATION: ADRIAN VEIDT SHOT AT. PRESS GAVE KILLER'S NAME AS ROY VICTOR CHESS.
GRILL
DEAD NOW.
SOMEBODY KNEW ROY CHESS. SOMEBODY HIRED HIM.
WON'T INSULT LEGENDARY UNDERWORLD SOLIDARITY BY SUGGESTING YOU SURRENDER NAME WITHOUT TORTURE.
DON'T WORRY...
GRILL
YOU BASTARDS! I BUY YA DRINKS, YOU SELL ME OUT! WHAT KINDA TOWN IS THIS?
YOU KEEP AWAY FROM ME! YOU COME ANY CLOSER, YOU'RE GONNA GET THIS IN YOUR GODDAMN SQUIDGY FACE!
YOU'RE GONNA...
AAAAOOOGODDD!
STUPID.
ALL RIGHT ...EVERYBODY STAY CALM, WE'LL TRY TO KEEP THIS BRIEF.
NO! NO, DON'T SQUEEZE IT...
ROY CHESS.
HOW'S YOUR GAME?
14

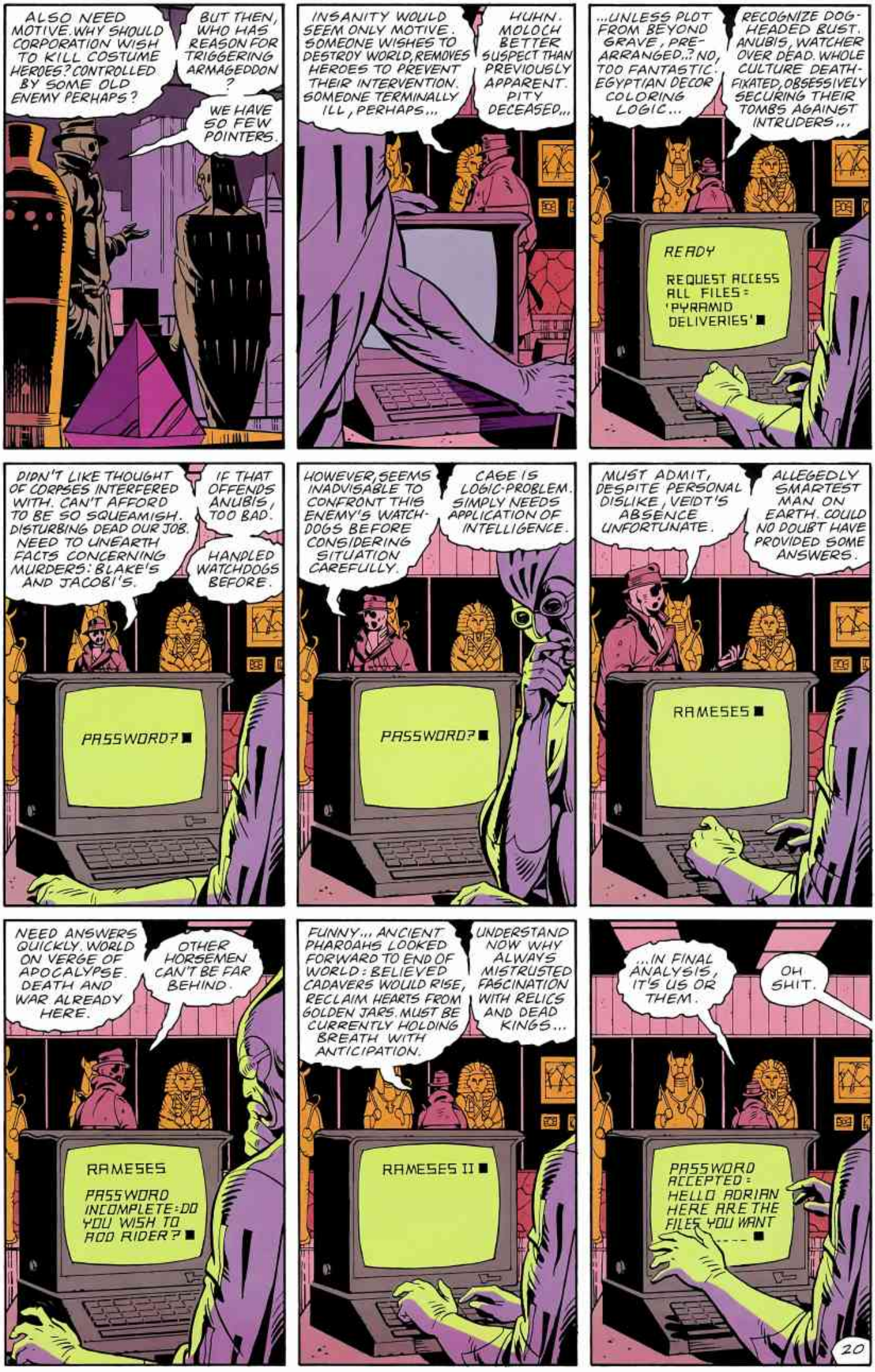
LISTEN, PLEASE, I JUST HANDED OVER THESE ENVELOPES TO THE GUY. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AAAA!
WHAT ENVELOPES?
SEALED ENVELOPES, ONE WITH CASH, ONE WITH INSTRUCTIONS. I HAD TO FIND A RELIABLE CONTRACT HIT, GIVE HIM BOTH. NOBODY MENTIONED VEIDT!
GOT OFFERED THE ERRAND BY MY BOSS, FREIGHT CO-ORDINATOR AT PYRAMID DELIVERIES...
AH.
POISON CAPSULES=IN ENVELOPES?
M-MAYBE. HELL, I DUNNO. I TOOK THE JOB, LOT OF OTHER GUYS WERE GETTIN' SOME ACTION, I FIGURE WHY NOT? NOW EVERYBODY'S GETTIN' KILLED, MY LIFE'S A NIGHTMARE ...
KILLED?
ALL THE OTHER FREIGHT HANDLERS WHO WERE IN ON THINGS. SUPPOSED TO BE ACCIDENTS; OVERDOSES... BULLSHIT!
MY BOSS, GUY GAVE ME THE ENVELOPES, HE FELL UNDER A SUBWAY TRAIN.
I'M NEXT. I NEED PROTECTION.
SEE, I UNDERSTAND, YOU GUYS ARE PISSED, YOUR OWN PEOPLE ARE THREATENED, THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE. BUT I SWEAR, NOT 'TIL I SAW CHESS ON THE NEWS, I DIDN'T KNOW VEIDT WAS THE CONTRACT.
SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, SON?
I'D NEVER CROSS ONE O' YOU PEOPLE. NOT KNOWINGLY ...
I KNEW IT! I KNEW YOU'D VICTIMIZE ME! GET OFF MY CASE! WEARING A KNOT DOESN'T MEAN I'M CONNECTED WITH THAT STUFF LAST NIGHT. LOTTA PEOPLE DRESS LIKE THIS, MAN.
I HEARD THE NEWS, BLAMING THAT MASON GUY'S MURDER ON KNOT TOPS, I THOUGHT "SHIT! LIKE THEY NEEDED EXCUSES TO HASSLE US!"
SO YOU GOTTA PROTECT ME. SOMEBODY'S AFTER ME, AND THESE DAYS NOBODY'S SAFE!
PROTECT YOU? BECAUSE YOU WERE UNAWARE WHOSE EXECUTION YOU WERE ARRANGING?
MAYBE PERSON ARRANGING YOURS DOESN'T KNOW EITHER. NOTHING PERSONAL, HEHN?
HOPE THAT THOUGHT COMFORTS YOU WHILE WAITING FOR AX TO FALL.
YIIAAAAAGH!
15

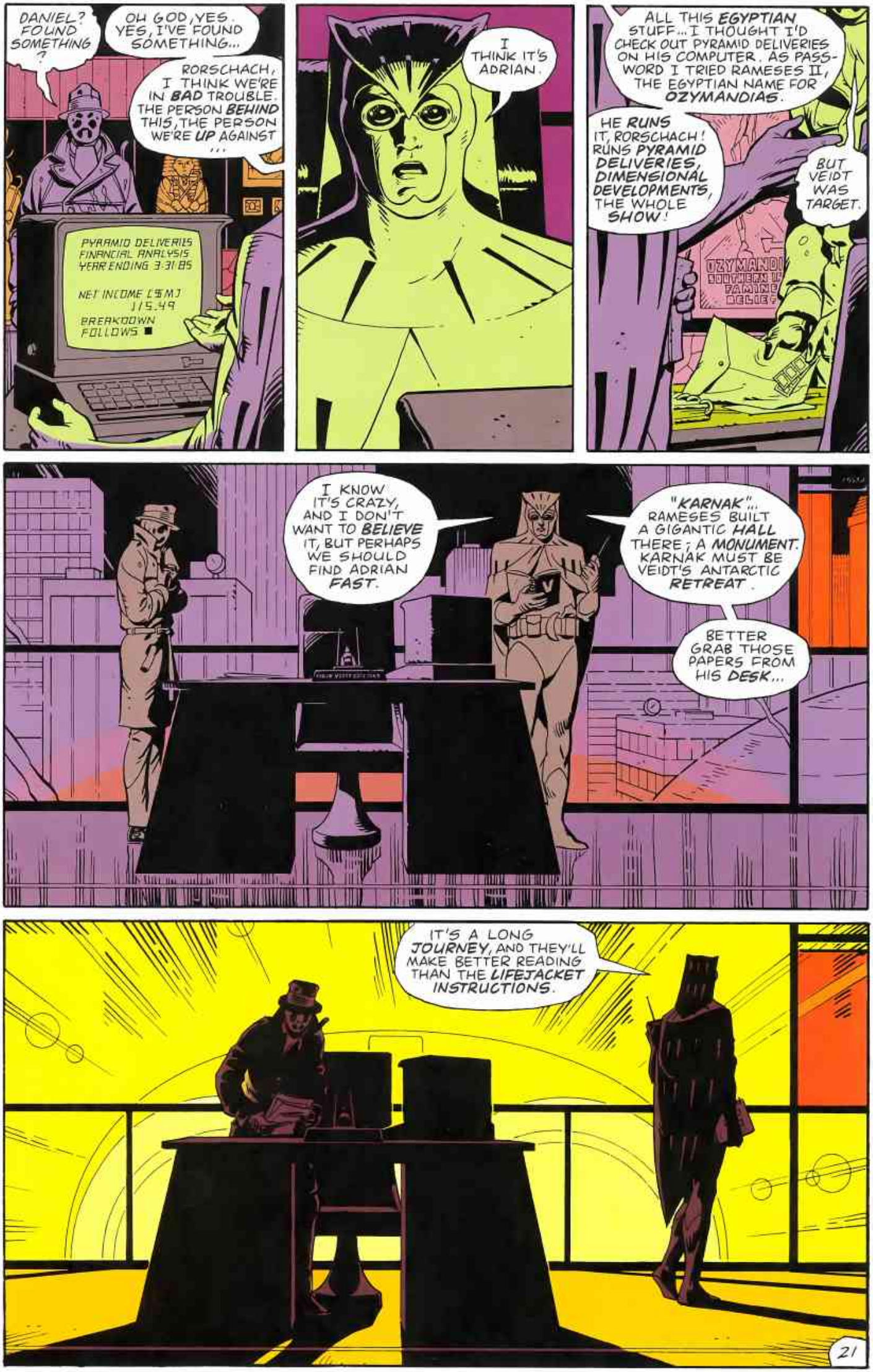

WHO DID IT? TELL ME WHO DID IT, YOU SLIME! WHO MURDERED HOLLIS?
KCUH...NO. DON'T KNOW... GHUCH...GANG... KIDS SAW GANG ...RUNNING AWAY...
YOU TELL THEM! TELL THEM THEY'RE DEAD! YOU KNOW HOW MUCH FIRE POWER I HAVE FLOATING OUT THERE?
I OUGHTTA TAKE OUT THIS ENTIRE RAT-HOLE NEIGHBORHOOD! I OUGHTTA... OUGHTTA BREAK YOUR NECK, YOU...YOU...
OH GOD DAMN.
GOD DAMN GOD DAMN GOD DAMN!
NOT IN FRONT OF CIVILIANS. WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE THAT WE WANTED...
YEAH.
YEAH, AND THEN SOME.
HELL, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
HOLLIS. OH CHRIST, MAN, WHY?
W-WE MUST HAVE MISSED IT ON THE NEWS. PROBABLY NOT IMPORTANT ENOUGH FOR REPEAT BULLETINS. JUST SOME...SOME USELESS OLD GUY...
OH SHIT. TAKE THIS AND BRING ARCHIE DOWN. I CAN'T SEE.
APPY HARRY'S
BAR
GRILL
UNIDENTIFIED GANG MURDERS MASON. SUPPORTS MASK-KILLER THEORY...
LOOK, I DON'T CARE! RIGHT NOW I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHOSE THEORY IS BEST! JUST SHUT UP AND BRING THE SHIP DOWN.
MERELY SUGGESTING THAT BY FINDING MASK KILLER, CAN HAVE REVENGE FOR MASON'S DEATH. MEANT TO COMFORT YOU.
COMFORT ME? WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND COULD TAKE COMFORT FROM ...UH...
YEAH, OKAY. THANKS, RORSCHACH. REALLY. THANK YOU.
YOU'RE WELCOME.
NOW KNOW WHO PAID TO KILL VEIDT. INFORMATION SHOULD CONVINCE HIM TO HELP US.
SURE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD. I REMEMBER ADRIAN ONCE TELLING ME THAT THE EGYPTIANS REGARDED DEATH AS A VOYAGE...
HURN. NICE IDEA IF YOU CAN AFFORD TO GO FIRST CLASS, WITH PHARAOHS...
...BUT JUDGING BY OUR DEPARTURES, MOST OF US TRAVEL STEERAGE.
16

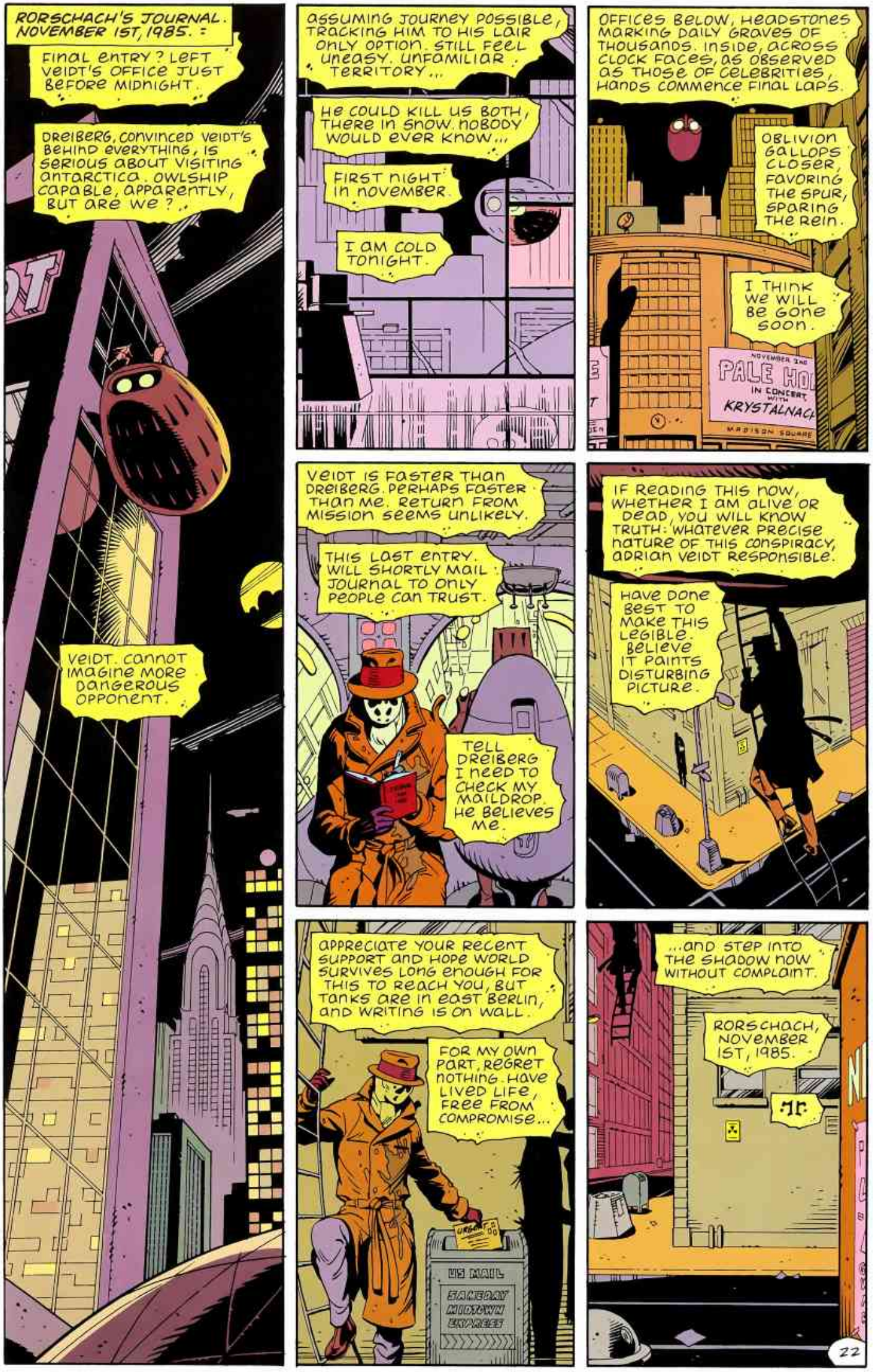

"OOPS. MR. SHEA, IT'S VERY DARK DOWN HERE. WHAT IF SOMEONE SHOULD DISCOVER US?"
"RELAX. EVERYBODY'S UP ON DECK FOR THE EVACUATION PARTY. ONCE THE LAST OF THE EQUIPMENT'S ABOARD, THE SHIP'S READY TO PUT OUT.
"HOW ABOUT YOU?"
"WHAT...? MR. SHEA, REALLY! HA HA HA HA!"
"HIRA, COME ON, WE'RE CELEBRATING. TONIGHT WE LEAVE THIS PLACE AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS. HELL, I SAW NORM LEITH AND LIN PALEY UP ON DECK. EVEN THEY WERE SMILING..."
"WELL, THEY'RE BEING PAID ENOUGH TO VANISH AND FORGET THEIR CARES. YOU KNOW, THIS MOVIE HAS INVOLVED EXTRA-ORDINARY SECRECY..."
"YEAH... AND I KNOW WHY. THAT GENETICIST GUY, FURNESSE, TOLD ME THEY'D USED A HUMAN BRAIN MAKING THAT GOD-DAMNED SPECIAL EFFECT.
"PROBABLY ILLEGAL, BUT WHO CARES? I'M CONTENT TO BE A RICH MISSING PERSON AND FINALLY OFF THAT ISLAND."
"LIKE YOUR SHIPWRECKED VOYAGER? DID HE ESCAPE HIS ISLAND?"
"WELL, YES, BUT... HEY! FEEL THAT? WE'RE MOVING."
"THAT ISN'T ALL I CAN FEEL. MAX, PLEASE, AT LEAST LET ME PUT DOWN MY DRAWING EQUIPMENT... THERE. HOW'S THAT?"
"MMM. HIRA, MEETING YOU MAKES UP FOR EVERYTHING. WE'LL FIND SOME PLACE TOGETHER AND ...
"HELL, WHAT'S DIGGING INTO MY ARM?"

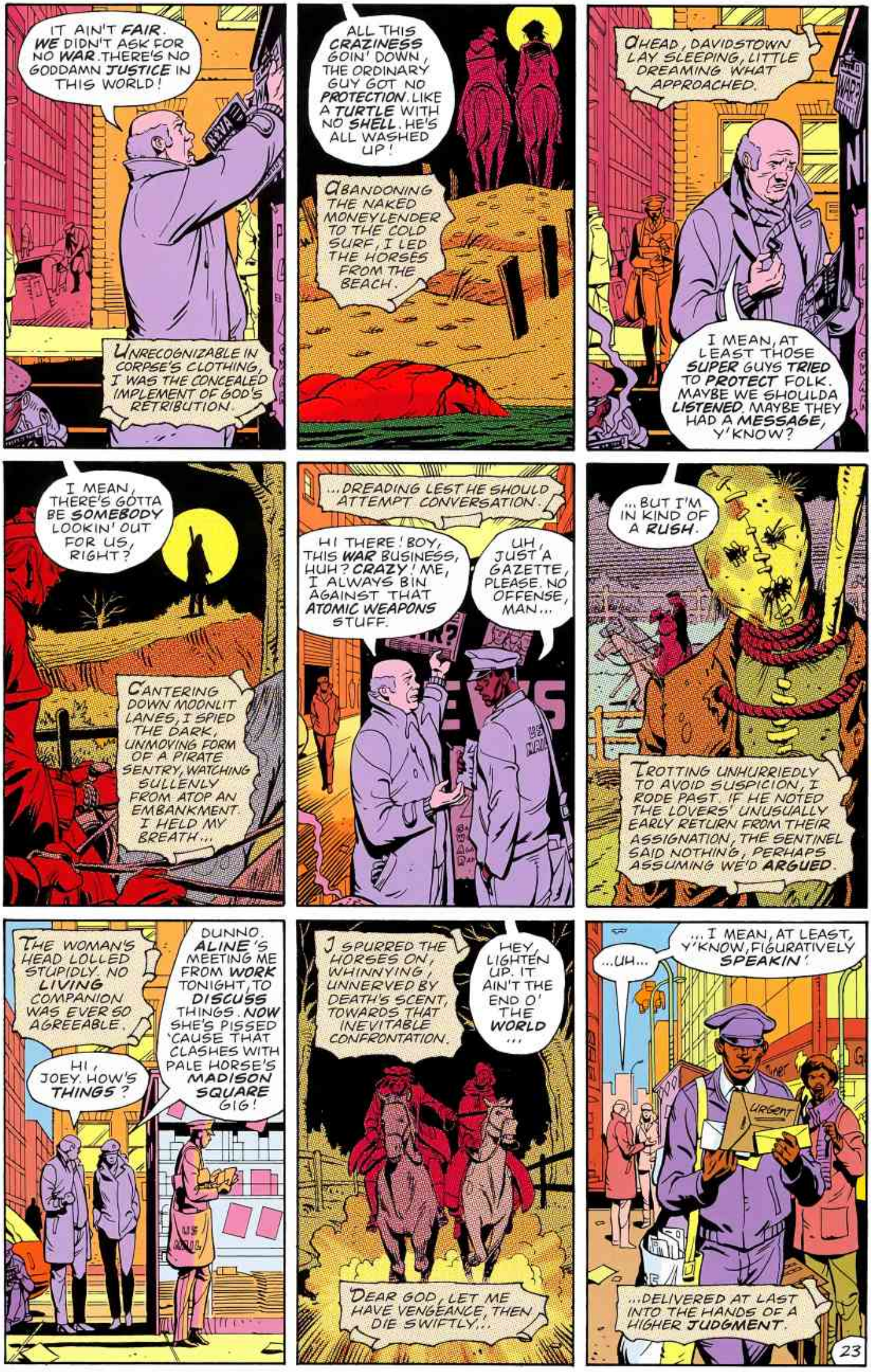

FORGET IT, WHATEVER IT IS. I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL A HOTEL ON THE MAINLAND. AFTER YEARS WITH THAT SEXLESS OAF AND HIS SPOILED SONS, I'M IMPATIENT.
SOME KINDA BOX UNDER THE TARPAULIN. LEMME SWITCH THIS LIGHT ON ...
MAX, PLEASE ...
WHAT'S THAT COUNTER? LET ME SEE THAT. IT'S ...
MAX, FOR GOD'S SAKE, CONCENTRATE ON ME. THE CREW MUST VISIT THIS PART OF THE SHIP, AND I THINK WE MIGHT NOT HAVE VERY LONG.
MAX? YOU'RE SO PALE. WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING, LOVE.
NOTHING'S WRONG.
HOLD ME.

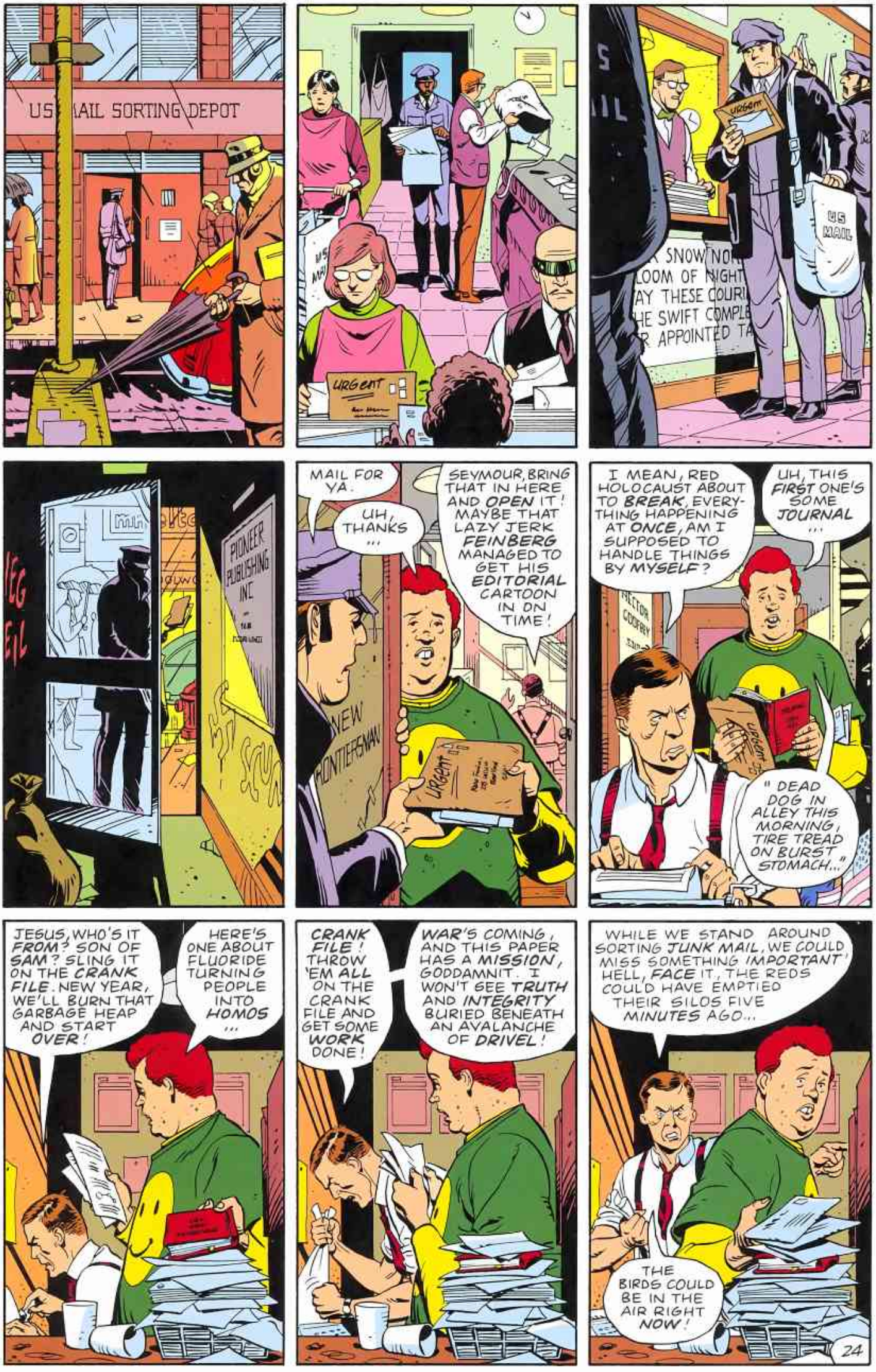

GONE.
VANISHED WITHOUT TRACE.
FUNNY. USUALLY WORKS HERE UNTIL EARLY IN MORNING.
THE WHOLE BUILDING LOOKED DESERTED AS WE CAME IN. MAYBE HE...
WAIT A MINUTE, WHAT'S THIS? APPOINTMENT BOOK?
"NOVEMBER 1ST, 4.30 A.M.: LEAVE FOR KARNAK."
KARNAK...?
NOVEMBER
4.30 am. leave for Karnak
QUESTION IS, WHAT NEXT? VEIDT UNAVAILABLE. CAN'T COUNT ON HIS HELP. MUST REVIEW PLANS.
KNOW DELIVERY COMPANY BEHIND VEIDT MURDER BID. ACCORDING TO YOU, ALSO OWNERS OF DIMENSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, THUS MAYBE BEHIND MANHATTAN FRAME.
WHAT'S THEIR ANGLE?
I'D HOPED ADRIAN MIGHT HELP WITH THAT.
HEH. INCREDIBLE STUFF HE HAS HERE...
MOSTLY REFLECTING VANITY: PICTURES OF SELF, PRETENTIOUS EGYPTIAN TRAPPINGS, IMPRESSIVE SALES CHART SHOWING...
WELL, WITH A CURVE LIKE THAT IT'S EITHER HIS I.Q. OR HIS INCOME ...
HURM. NOT SALES CHART. WHAT IS IT?
"GLOBAL POPULATION...NUCLEAR HAZARD ESCALATION INDEX..., ENVIRONMENTAL DECLINE..."
MULTIPLE CRISIS GRAPH, LINES CONVERGING MID 1990'S.
OPTIMISTIC. CRISIS ARRIVES DECADE EARLY UNLESS WE GET LEAD ON PYRAMID DELIVERIES.
COMPANY TRACEABLE PRESUMABLY, BUT OBVIOUSLY NOT AMATEURS: ENGINEERED MASK KILLER CAMPAIGN, MAYBE THIRD WORLD WAR INTO BARGAIN. VERY COMPETENT. VERY CAREFUL. DIFFICULT QUARRY.
NEED DIRECT ROUTE TO PEOPLE BEHIND PYRAMID, INDICATION WHERE TO START...

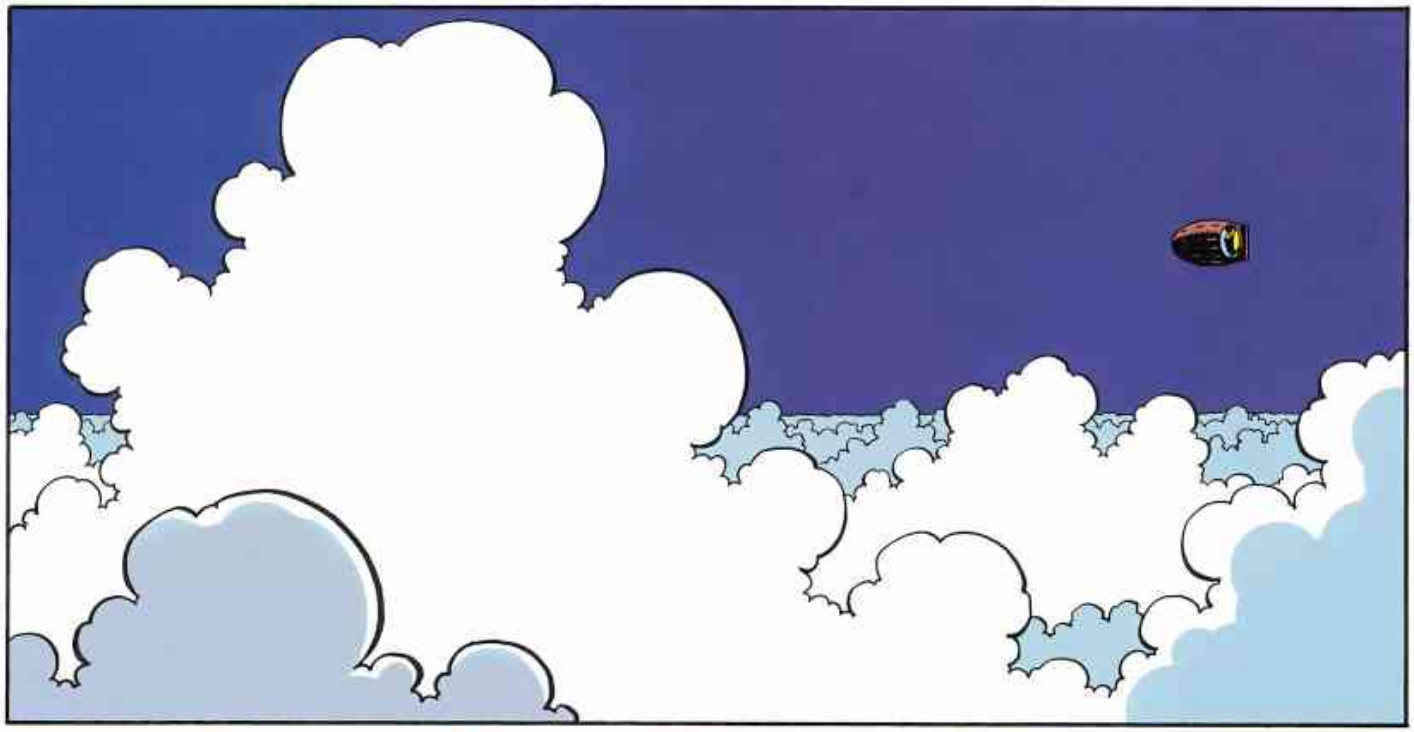

ALSO NEED MOTIVE. WHY SHOULD CORPORATION WISH TO KILL COSTUME HEROES? CONTROLLED BY SOME OLD ENEMY PERHAPS?
BUT THEN, WHO HAS REASON FOR TRIGGERING ARMAGEDDON?
WE HAVE SO FEW POINTERS.
INSANITY WOULD SEEM ONLY MOTIVE. SOMEONE WISHES TO DESTROY WORLD, REMOVES HEROES TO PREVENT THEIR INTERVENTION. SOMEONE TERMINALLY ILL, PERHAPS...
HUHN. MOLOCH BETTER SUSPECT THAN PREVIOUSLY APPARENT. PITY DECEASED...
...UNLESS PLOT FROM BEYOND GRAVE, PRE-ARRANGED..? NO, TOO FANTASTIC. EGYPTIAN DECOR COLORING LOGIC...
RECOGNIZE DOG-HEADED BUST. ANUBIS, WATCHER OVER DEAD. WHOLE CULTURE DEATH-FIXATED, OBSESSIVELY SECURING THEIR TOMBS AGAINST INTRUDERS...
READY
REQUEST ACCESS ALL FILES = 'PYRAMID DELIVERIES'■
DIDN'T LIKE THOUGHT OF CORPSES INTERFERED WITH. CAN'T AFFORD TO BE SO SQUEAMISH. DISTURBING DEAD OUR JOB. NEED TO UNEARTH FACTS CONCERNING MURDERS: BLAKE'S AND JACOBI'S.
IF THAT OFFENDS ANUBIS, TOO BAD.
HANDLED WATCHDOGS BEFORE.
PASSWORD?■
HOWEVER, SEEMS INADVISABLE TO CONFRONT THIS ENEMY'S WATCH-DOGS BEFORE CONSIDERING SITUATION CAREFULLY.
CAGE IS LOGIC-PROBLEM. SIMPLY NEEDS APPLICATION OF INTELLIGENCE.
PASSWORD?■
MUST ADMIT, DESPITE PERSONAL DISLIKE, VEIDT'S ABSENCE UNFORTUNATE.
ALLEGEDLY SMARTEST MAN ON EARTH. COULD NO DOUBT HAVE PROVIDED SOME ANSWERS.
RAMESES■
NEED ANSWERS QUICKLY. WORLD ON VERGE OF APOCALYPSE. DEATH AND WAR ALREADY HERE.
OTHER HORSEMEN CAN'T BE FAR BEHIND.
RAMESES
PASSWORD INCOMPLETE: DO YOU WISH TO ADD RIDER?■
FUNNY... ANCIENT PHARAOHS LOOKED FORWARD TO END OF WORLD: BELIEVED CADAVERS WOULD RISE, RECLAIM HEARTS FROM GOLDEN JARS. MUST BE CURRENTLY HOLDING BREATH WITH ANTICIPATION.
UNDERSTAND NOW WHY ALWAYS MISTRUSTED FASCINATION WITH RELICS AND DEAD KINGS...
RAMESES II■
...IN FINAL ANALYSIS, IT'S US OR THEM.
OH SHIT.
PASSWORD ACCEPTED: HELLO ADRIAN HERE ARE THE FILES YOU WANT ----■


DANIEL? FOUND SOMETHING?
OH GOD, YES. YES, I'VE FOUND SOMETHING...
RORSCHACH, I THINK WE'RE IN BAD TROUBLE. THE PERSON BEHIND THIS, THE PERSON WE'RE UP AGAINST ...
PYRAMID DELIVERIES FINANCIAL ANALYSIS YEAR ENDING 3-31-85
NET INCOME [$M] 115.49
BREAKDOWN FOLLOWS ■
I THINK IT'S ADRIAN.
ALL THIS EGYPTIAN STUFF... I THOUGHT I'D CHECK OUT PYRAMID DELIVERIES ON HIS COMPUTER. AS PASSWORD I TRIED RAMESES II, THE EGYPTIAN NAME FOR OZYMANDIAS.
HE RUNS IT, RORSCHACH! RUNS PYRAMID DELIVERIES, DIMENSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE WHOLE SHOW!
BUT VEIDT WAS TARGET.
I KNOW IT'S CRAZY, AND I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD FIND ADRIAN FAST.
"KARNAK"... RAMESES BUILT A GIGANTIC HALL THERE; A MONUMENT. KARNAK MUST BE VEIDT'S ANTARCTIC RETREAT.
BETTER GRAB THOSE PAPERS FROM HIS DESK...
IT'S A LONG JOURNEY, AND THEY'LL MAKE BETTER READING THAN THE LIFEJACKET INSTRUCTIONS.
21


RORSCHACH'S JOURNAL. NOVEMBER 1ST, 1985.
FINAL ENTRY? LEFT VEIDT'S OFFICE JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
DREIBERG, CONVINCED VEIDT'S BEHIND EVERYTHING, IS SERIOUS ABOUT VISITING ANTARCTICA. OWLSHIP CAPABLE, APPARENTLY, BUT ARE WE?..
VEIDT. CANNOT IMAGINE MORE DANGEROUS OPPONENT.
ASSUMING JOURNEY POSSIBLE, TRACKING HIM TO HIS LAIR ONLY OPTION. STILL FEEL UNEASY. UNFAMILIAR TERRITORY...
HE COULD KILL US BOTH, THERE IN SNOW. NOBODY WOULD EVER KNOW...
FIRST NIGHT IN NOVEMBER.
I AM COLD TONIGHT.
OFFICES BELOW, HEADSTONES MARKING DAILY GRAVES OF THOUSANDS. INSIDE, ACROSS CLOCK FACES, AS OBSERVED AS THOSE OF CELEBRITIES, HANDS COMMENCE FINAL LAPS.
OBLIVION GALLOPS CLOSER, FAVORING THE SPUR, SPARING THE REIN.
I THINK WE WILL BE GONE SOON.
NOVEMBER 2ND
PALE HO
IN CONCERT WITH
KRYSTALNACH
MADISON SQUARE
VEIDT IS FASTER THAN DREIBERG. PERHAPS FASTER THAN ME. RETURN FROM MISSION SEEMS UNLIKELY.
THIS LAST ENTRY. WILL SHORTLY MAIL JOURNAL TO ONLY PEOPLE CAN TRUST.
TELL DREIBERG I NEED TO CHECK MY MAILDROP. HE BELIEVES ME.
IF READING THIS NOW, WHETHER I AM ALIVE OR DEAD, YOU WILL KNOW TRUTH: WHATEVER PRECISE NATURE OF THIS CONSPIRACY, ADRIAN VEIDT RESPONSIBLE.
HAVE DONE BEST TO MAKE THIS LEGIBLE. BELIEVE IT PAINTS DISTURBING PICTURE.
APPRECIATE YOUR RECENT SUPPORT AND HOPE WORLD SURVIVES LONG ENOUGH FOR THIS TO REACH YOU, BUT TANKS ARE IN EAST BERLIN, AND WRITING IS ON WALL.
FOR MY OWN PART, REGRET NOTHING. HAVE LIVED LIFE, FREE FROM COMPROMISE...
URGENT
US MAIL
SAMEDAY MIDTOWN EXPRESS
...AND STEP INTO THE SHADOW NOW WITHOUT COMPLAINT.
RORSCHACH, NOVEMBER 1ST, 1985.
22


IT AIN'T FAIR. WE DIDN'T ASK FOR NO WAR. THERE'S NO GODDAMN JUSTICE IN THIS WORLD!
UNRECOGNIZABLE IN CORPSE'S CLOTHING, I WAS THE CONCEALED IMPLEMENT OF GOD'S RETRIBUTION.
ALL THIS CRAZINESS GOIN' DOWN, THE ORDINARY GUY GOT NO PROTECTION. LIKE A TURTLE WITH NO SHELL. HE'S ALL WASHED UP!
ABANDONING THE NAKED MONEYLENDER TO THE COLD SURF, I LED THE HORSES FROM THE BEACH.
AHEAD, DAVIDSTOWN LAY SLEEPING, LITTLE DREAMING WHAT APPROACHED.
I MEAN, AT LEAST THOSE SUPER GUYS TRIED TO PROTECT FOLK. MAYBE WE SHOULDA LISTENED. MAYBE THEY HAD A MESSAGE, Y'KNOW?
I MEAN, THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMEBODY LOOKIN' OUT FOR US, RIGHT?
CANTERING DOWN MOONLIT LANES, I SPIED THE DARK, UNMOVING FORM OF A PIRATE SENTRY, WATCHING SULLENLY FROM ATOP AN EMBANKMENT. I HELD MY BREATH...
...DREADING LEST HE SHOULD ATTEMPT CONVERSATION.
HI THERE! BOY, THIS WAR BUSINESS, HUH? CRAZY! ME, I ALWAYS BIN AGAINST THAT ATOMIC WEAPONS STUFF.
UH, JUST A GAZETTE, PLEASE. NO OFFENSE, MAN...
...BUT I'M IN KIND OF A RUSH.
TROTTING UNHURRIEDLY TO AVOID SUSPICION, I RODE PAST. IF HE NOTED THE LOVERS' UNUSUALLY EARLY RETURN FROM THEIR ASSIGNATION, THE SENTINEL SAID NOTHING, PERHAPS ASSUMING WE'D ARGUED.
THE WOMAN'S HEAD LOLLED STUPIDLY. NO LIVING COMPANION WAS EVER SO AGREEABLE.
HI, JOEY. HOW'S THINGS?
DUNNO. ALINE'S MEETING ME FROM WORK TONIGHT, TO DISCUSS THINGS. NOW SHE'S PISSED 'CAUSE THAT CLASHES WITH PALE HORSE'S MADISON SQUARE GIG!
I SPURRED THE HORSES ON, WHINNYING, UNNERVED BY DEATH'S SCENT, TOWARDS THAT INEVITABLE CONFRONTATION.
HEY, LIGHTEN UP. IT AIN'T THE END O' THE WORLD...
DEAR GOD, LET ME HAVE VENGEANCE, THEN DIE SWIFTLY...
...UH...
...I MEAN, AT LEAST, Y'KNOW, FIGURATIVELY SPEAKIN'.
URGENT
...DELIVERED AT LAST INTO THE HANDS OF A HIGHER JUDGMENT.
23


US MAIL SORTING DEPOT
URGENT
US MAIL
PIONEER PUBLISHING INC
MAIL FOR YA.
UH, THANKS ...
SEYMOUR, BRING THAT IN HERE AND OPEN IT! MAYBE THAT LAZY JERK FEINBERG MANAGED TO GET HIS EDITORIAL CARTOON IN ON TIME!
NEW FRONTIERSMAN
URGENT
I MEAN, RED HOLOCAUST ABOUT TO BREAK, EVERYTHING HAPPENING AT ONCE, AM I SUPPOSED TO HANDLE THINGS BY MYSELF?
UH, THIS FIRST ONE'S SOME JOURNAL ...
" DEAD DOG IN ALLEY THIS MORNING, TIRE TREAD ON BURST STOMACH..."
JESUS, WHO'S IT FROM? SON OF SAM? SLING IT ON THE CRANK FILE. NEW YEAR, WE'LL BURN THAT GARBAGE HEAP AND START OVER!
HERE'S ONE ABOUT FLUORIDE TURNING PEOPLE INTO HOMOS ...
CRANK FILE! THROW 'EM ALL ON THE CRANK FILE AND GET SOME WORK DONE!
WAR'S COMING, AND THIS PAPER HAS A MISSION, GODDAMNIT. I WON'T SEE TRUTH AND INTEGRITY BURIED BENEATH AN AVALANCHE OF DRIVEL!
WHILE WE STAND AROUND SORTING JUNK MAIL, WE COULD MISS SOMETHING IMPORTANT! HELL, FACE IT, THE REDS COULD HAVE EMPTIED THEIR SILOS FIVE MINUTES AGO...
THE BIRDS COULD BE IN THE AIR RIGHT NOW!
24

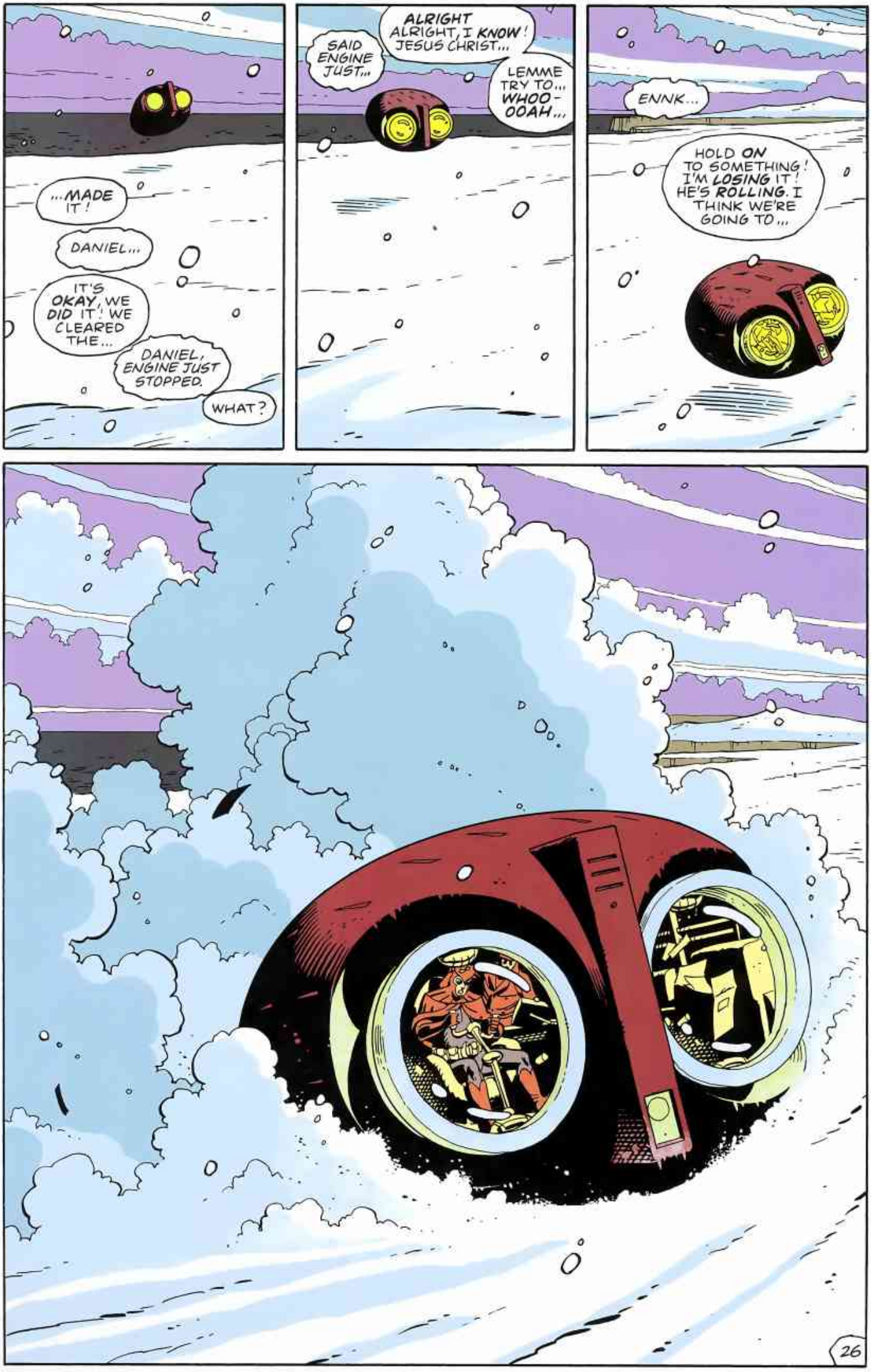


HOW MUCH FURTHER? SAID WE WERE OVER ANTARCTICA HOURS AGO.
VEIDT'S FORTRESS IS NEARBY, ALONG THE COASTLINE. THAT'S WHAT I'M FOLLOWING.
LISTEN, I DON'T LIKE THE WAY ARCHIE'S HANDLING. I'M GOING TO TAKE HIM DOWN.

SENSIBLE MOVE. MAKE FINAL APPROACH LOW, BENEATH RADAR.
I DON'T THINK WE'VE GOT MUCH CHOICE. YOU FEEL THAT SORT OF KICKING IN THE ENGINE, LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO SEIZE?
ICE. SHIT, I BET IT'S ICE...

I HAD HIM SOAKING ON A RIVER BED ALL YESTERDAY, THEN BRING HIM STRAIGHT INTO SUB-ZERO TEMPERATURES! WHY DIDN'T I THINK?
DANIEL... COMING IN TOO LOW TOWARDS CLIFFS...

DON'T WISH TO INTERFERE WITH RUNNING OF SHIP, BUT SHOULD PERHAPS PULL UP SHARPLY BEFORE...
I'M TRYING! I'M TRYING TO PULL HIM UP, GODDAMN IT!
WAIT! WAIT, I THINK IT'S COMING. I THINK WE'VE...


...MADE IT!
DANIEL...
IT'S OKAY, WE DID IT! WE CLEARED THE...
DANIEL, ENGINE JUST STOPPED.
WHAT?
SAID ENGINE JUST...
ALRIGHT ALRIGHT, I KNOW! JESUS CHRIST...
LEMME TRY TO... WHOO-OOAH...
ENNK...
HOLD ON TO SOMETHING! I'M LOSING IT! HE'S ROLLING. I THINK WE'RE GOING TO...
26

OW.
YOU OKAY?
TWISTED ANKLE. NOTHING SERIOUS. LANDED ON IT BADLY NIGHT POLICE TOOK ME.
HOW BAD IS DAMAGE TO SHIP?

DIFFICULT TO SAY. PROBABLY NOTHING I COULDN'T FIX GIVEN A FEW HOURS...
IT'D BE QUICKER TO COVER THE REMAINING DISTANCE ON THE HOVERBIKES. THE INSTRUMENTS PUT US WITHIN TWENTY MILES OF VEIDT'S FORTRESS.

YOU BREAK OUT THE BIKES WHILE I GET INTO MY SNOW SUIT.
UH... YOU'RE SURE I CAN'T FIT YOU OUT IN SOMETHING A LITTLE WARMER?
FINE LIKE THIS.

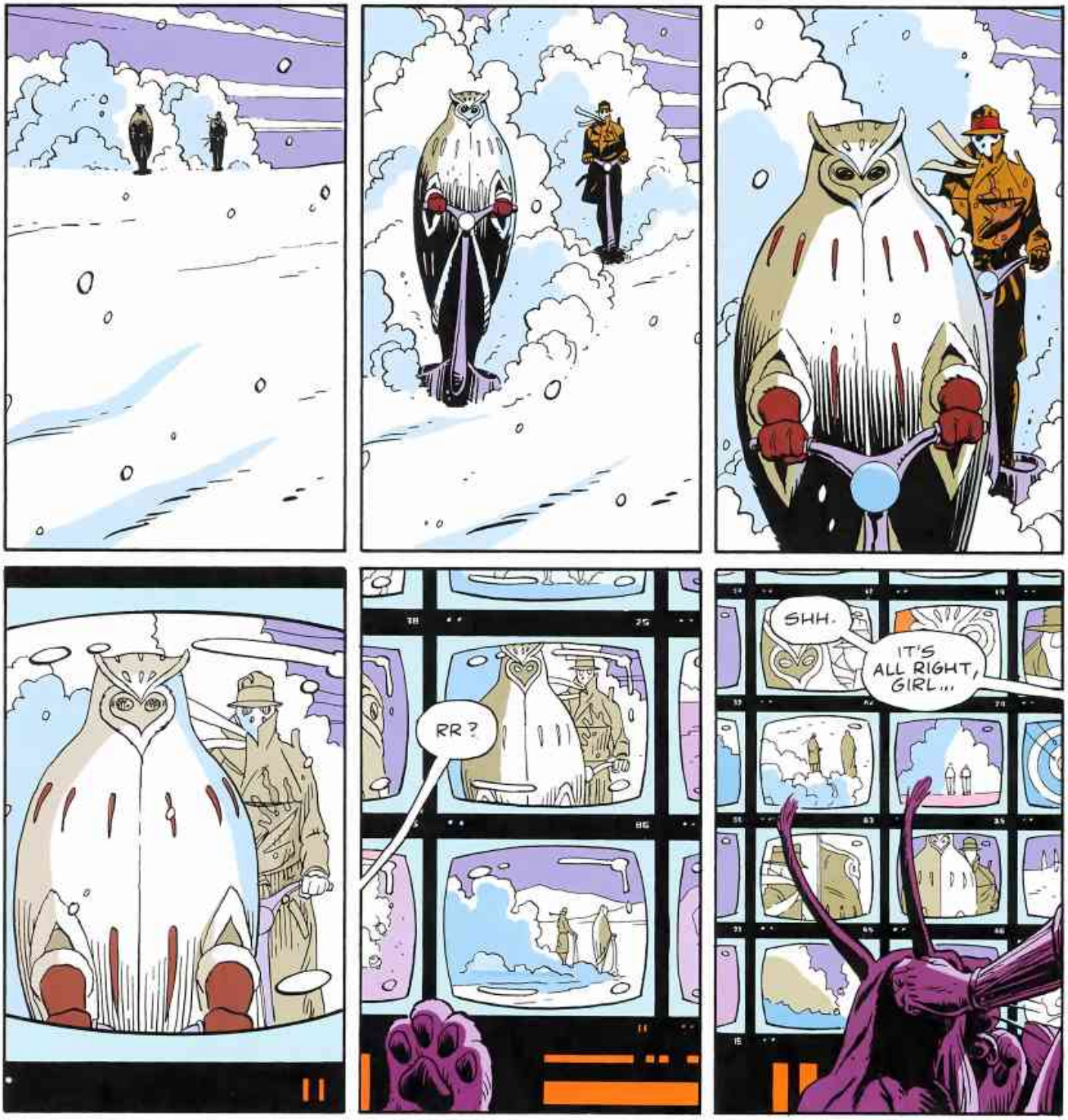
WELL, WHATEVER YOU WANT.
GIVE ME A SECOND AND I'LL OPEN THE REAR DOOR SO YOU CAN UNLOAD THOSE...
USED THESE WHEN WE TOOK UNDERBOSS. REMEMBER RIDING ALONG SEWER.

GOD, YES! THEY KNEW WE COULDN'T GET ARCHIE DOWN THERE AND FIGURED THEY WERE SAFE...
THEN YOU SHOOT OUT OF THAT TUNNEL, WITH THE GAS CLOUD, ALL THE RATS RUNNING AHEAD OF YOU...
MAN, THEIR FACES!

YES. GOOD NIGHT. THINK OF IT OFTEN.
AS I RECALL, CONTROLS SIMPLE; JUST TWO PEDALS AND STEERING COLUMN.
YOU GOT IT.
TCH. LOOK AT THAT ICE. BETTER FIX IT SOON AS WE GET BACK...

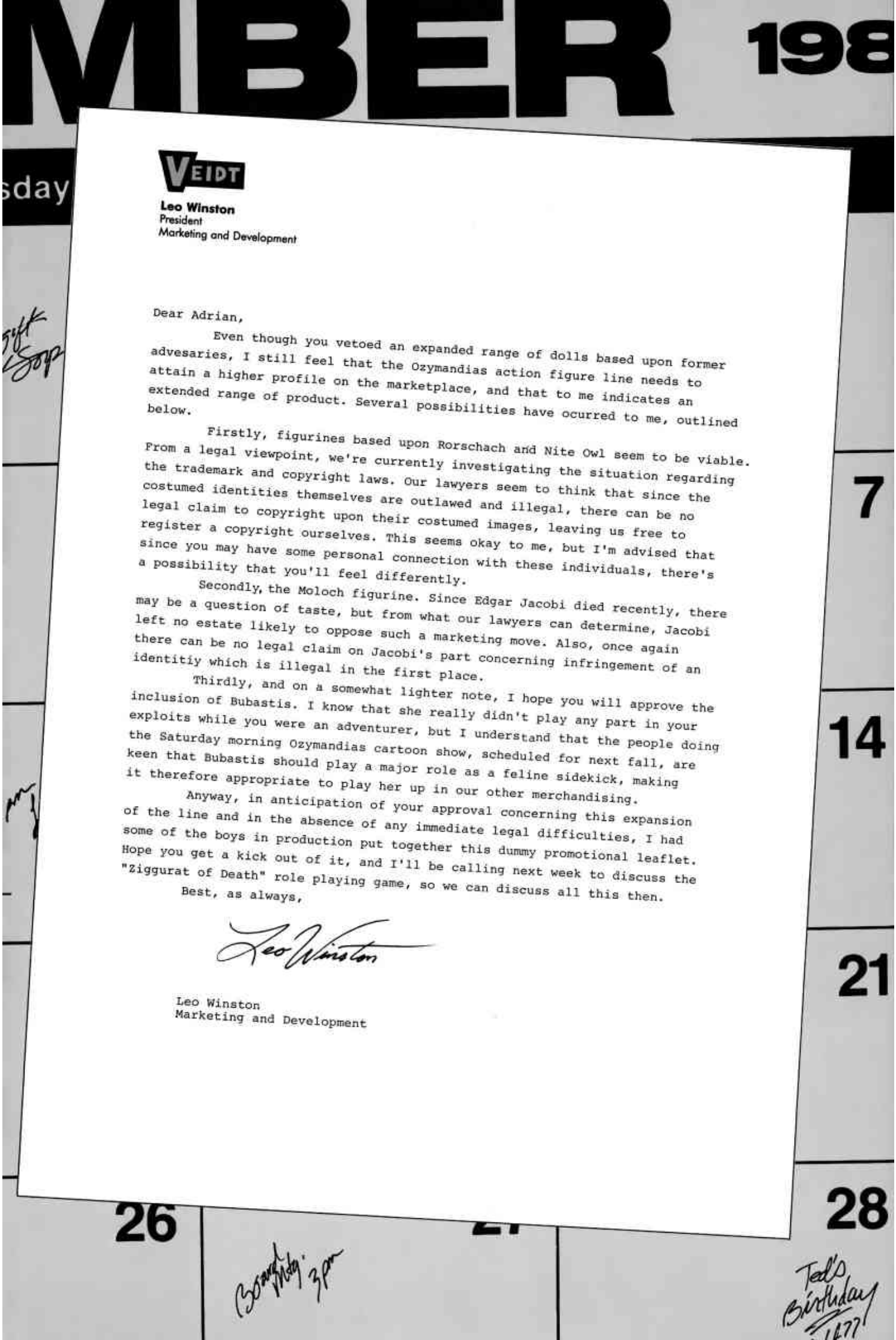
IF WE GET BACK.
YEAH.
YEAH. IF WE GET BACK. I'M GOING TO SECURE THE SHIP ANYWAY.
THERE. OKAY, I GUESS THAT'S IT...

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?



Outside in the distance a wild cat did growl, two riders were approaching, the wind began to howl.

—Bob Dylan



VEIDT

Leo Winston
President
Marketing and Development

Dear Adrian,

Even though you vetoed an expanded range of dolls based upon former advesaries, I still feel that the Ozymandias action figure line needs to attain a higher profile on the marketplace, and that to me indicates an extended range of product. Several possibilities have ocurred to me, outlined below.

Firstly, figurines based upon Rorschach and Nite Owl seem to be viable. From a legal viewpoint, we're currently investigating the situation regarding the trademark and copyright laws. Our lawyers seem to think that since the costumed identities themselves are outlawed and illegal, there can be no legal claim to copyright upon their costumed images, leaving us free to register a copyright ourselves. This seems okay to me, but I'm advised that since you may have some personal connection with these individuals, there's a possibility that you'll feel differently.

Secondly, the Moloch figurine. Since Edgar Jacobi died recently, there may be a question of taste, but from what our lawyers can determine, Jacobi left no estate likely to oppose such a marketing move. Also, once again there can be no legal claim on Jacobi's part concerning infringement of an identitiy which is illegal in the first place.

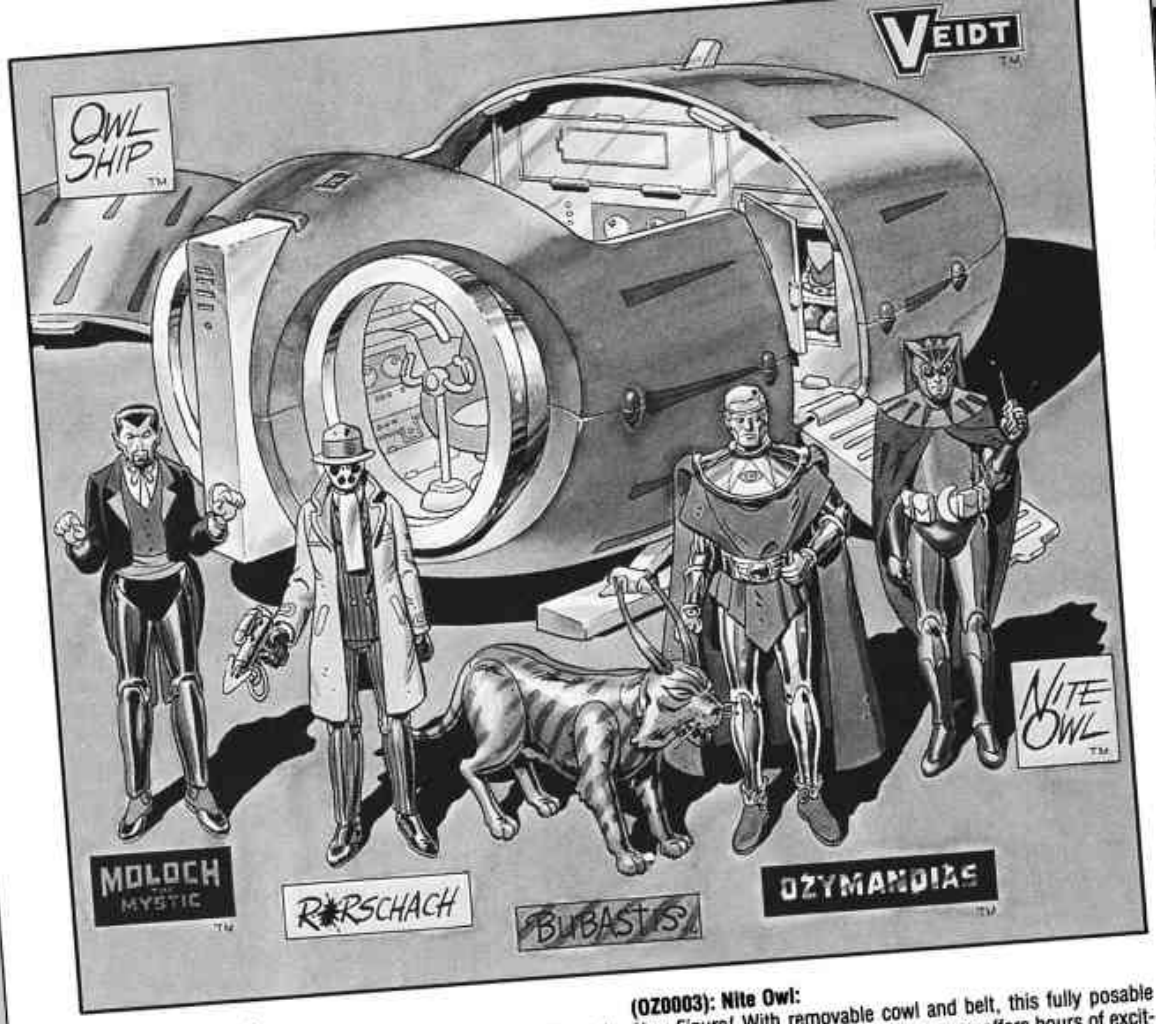
Thirdly, and on a somewhat lighter note, I hope you will approve the inclusion of Bubastis. I know that she really didn't play any part in your exploits while you were an adventurer, but I understand that the people doing the Saturday morning Ozymandias cartoon show, scheduled for next fall, are keen that Bubastis should play a major role as a feline sidekick, making it therefore appropriate to play her up in our other merchandising.

Anyway, in anticipation of your approval concerning this expansion of the line and in the absence of any immediate legal difficulties, I had some of the boys in production put together this dummy promotional leaflet. Hope you get a kick out of it, and I'll be calling next week to discuss the "Ziggurat of Death" role playing game, so we can discuss all this then.

Best, as always,

Leo Winston

Leo Winston
Marketing and Development



(OZ0001): Ozymandias:
This fully posable action doll, with removable cloak, tunic, and headband, is authentically molded to duplicate accurately the world-famous physique of athlete and former adventurer Adrian Veidt.

(OZ0002): Rorschach:
New Figure! Fully jointed and posable, this scale facsimile of the feared vigilante has a removable trenchcoat and hat.

(OZB001): Rorschach's Grappling Gun:
New Accessory! This scale model of the famous gas-powered grappling gun is spring loaded, and will fire a miniature hook, along with a length of line. Safe for children over five.

(OZ0003): Nite Owl:
New Figure! With removable cowl and belt, this fully posable model of the former nocturnal adventurer offers hours of exciting fun.

(OZB002): The Owlship:
New Accessory! Painstakingly assembled from existing photographs of this famous craft, our Owlship has an accessible and fully detailed cabin area, built to scale with **OZ0003.** Fully lighted cabin! Batteries not included.

(OZ0004): Moloch:
New Figure! With detachable handgun and stage magician's jacket, now you can thrill to the misdeeds of the infamous crown prince of the underworld in the safety of your own home.

(OZB003): Bubastis:
New Accessory! Fully posable, see the giant mutant Lynx of Ozymandias. Now she can help Adrian Veidt fight evil and help the innocent in *your* adventures, just like she does on TV.

VEIDT

Jes-

Agree with you re: expansion of line. My study of recorded sales figures in a historical context suggests an increase in the sale of soldiers and action figures in times immediately prior to a period of anticipated war or bloodshed, and we should take advantage of this syndrome for as long as it lasts.

However, ethically very uncertain about Rorschach, Nite Owl and Moloch, plus accessories. Suggest instead we create costumed army of terrorists, introduce as main villains in Saturday cartoon, then duplicate here along with weapons, accessories and vehicles. More militaristic flavor will sell better. The American public has never really gone in for super-heroes in a big way. We'll discuss this next week.

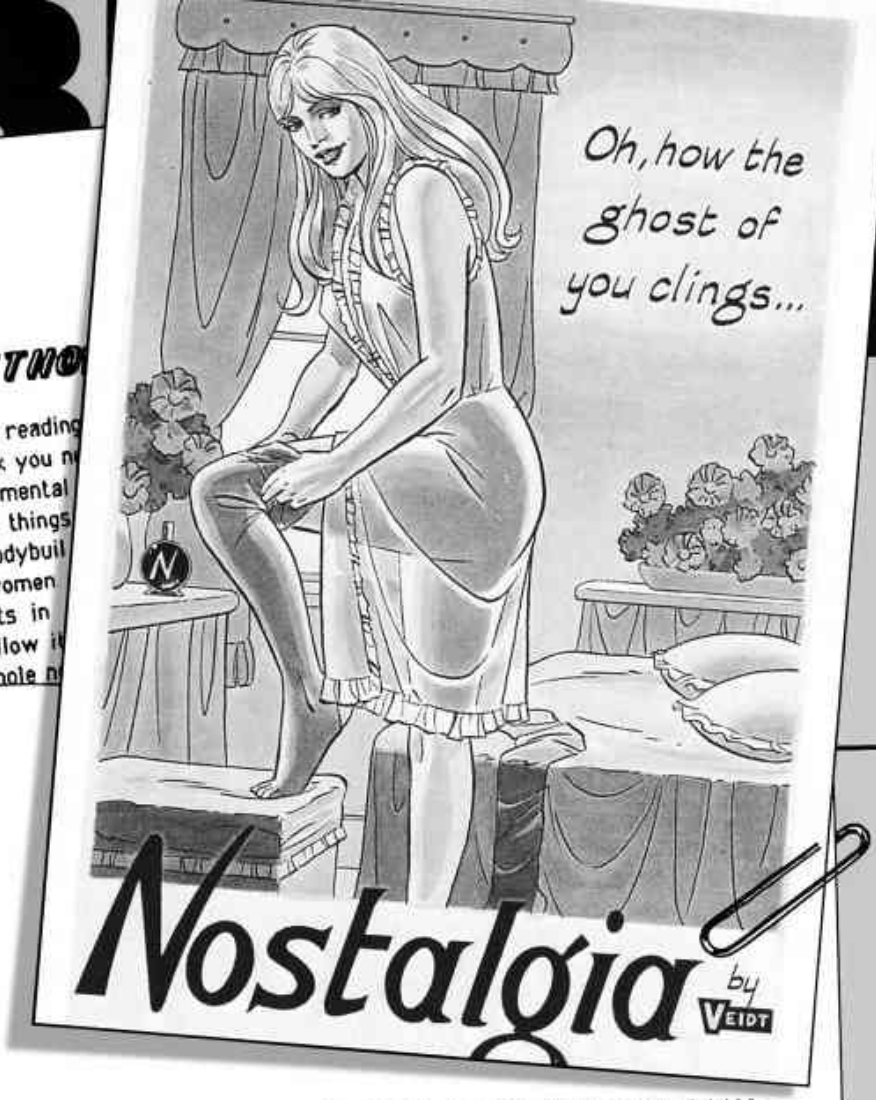
Best,
Adrian Veidt

P.S.- loved Bubastis. As soon as they're made, I must have one to give to her. Regards to Josephine and your children.

VEIDT **Adrian Veidt**
President and C.E.O.

THE VEIDT METHO

Hello. If you're reading
THAT, it's because you think you n
and magnetism? Advanced mental
we can offer you all these things
YOU! More than just a bodybuil
capable young men and women
difficult world that awaits in
understand, and if you follow i



VEIDT **Adrian Veidt**
President and C.E.O.

Angela Neuberg
Director
Veidt Cosmetics & Toiletries

Dear Angela,

Enclosed you'll find a representative sample of our current magazine and billboard advertising, promoting Nostalgia.

The sexual imagery is obvious, the woman adjusting her stocking being overtly erotic, yet layered with enough romantic ambiance to avoid offense. In our choice of models for the Nostalgia ads I note that we have consistently chosen models with a slightly androgynous quality to their beauty, which I presume is to afford us a window into the gay marketplace, a tendency more pronounced in the ads for Nostalgia aftershave. This is all well and good, but it avoids the most significant element of the Nostalgia campaign:

In the soft focus imagery and romantic atmosphere, the advertisements conjure an idyllic picture of times past. It seems to me that the success of the campaign is directly linked to the state of global uncertainty that has endured for the past forty years or more. In an era of stress and anxiety, when the present seems unstable and the future unlikely, the natural response is to retreat and withdraw from reality, taking recourse either in fantasies of the future or in modified visions of a half-imagined past.

While this marketing strategy is certainly relevant and indeed successful in a context of social upheaval, I feel we must begin to take into account the fact that one way or another, such conditions cannot endure indefinitely. Simply put, the current circumstances out civilization finds itself immersed in will either lead to war, or they won't. If they lead to war, our best plans become irrelevant. If peace endures, I contend that a new surge of social optimism is likely, necessitating a new image for Veidt cosmetics, geared to a new consumer.

To this end, starting next year we will begin to phase out the Nostalgia line of ladies' and men's cosmetics, successful though they be, and replace them with a new line that better exemplifies the spirit of our anticipated target group. This new line is to be called the "Millenium" line. The imagery associated with it will be controversial and modern, projecting a vision of a technological Utopia, a whole new universe of sensations and pleasures that is just within reach.

I would like the new line to be ready for launch in the summer, and would appreciate it if some dummy ad copy and artwork could be assembled for my perusal and comment sometime before Christmas.

Anticipating your cooperation, and looking forward to working with you on this one. My fondest regards to Frank. We must have lunch soon.

Love,

Adrian Veidt

VEIDT **Adrian Veidt**
President and C.E.O.

Attached, manuscript for revised introduction
updated "Veidt Method" self-improvement booklet.
Please forward to relevant department.
—V.

THE VEIDT METHOD: AN INTRODUCTION

Hello. If you're reading this, it's because you sent away for my course, and if you did THAT, it's because you think you need a change in your life. A better body? Increased confidence and magnetism? Advanced mental techniques that will help you at home or in business? Well, yes, we can offer you all these things... but in order to have and enjoy them, there's got to be a new YOU! More than just a bodybuilding course, the Veidt Method is designed to produce bright and capable young men and women who will be fit to inherit the challenging, promising, and often difficult world that awaits in our future. The course is designed to be easy to read and to understand, and if you follow it through, I can assure you that you and your friends will quickly notice the results as a whole new realm of ability and experience is opened up to you. Below is a brief summary of what you can expect to find in the later chapters of this volume.

UNDERSTANDING THE SELF

Both the body and the mind are parts of a biological robot that our immaterial souls inhabit. Like any machines, they can be tuned, improved and made to run more efficiently, as long as one understands the process for doing so. Through meditation and intellectual exercise, we may come to use our minds in ways that we never thought possible. In this first chapter of our manual we will discuss lateral thinking, Zen meditation, and the power of dreaming and the subconscious, along with other useful techniques for the advancement of the mind and intellect. Though not a religion, there are powerful spiritual disciplines behind the Veidt Method that must be understood if the student is to proceed.

HEALTH AND THE BODY

In our second chapter, we explore the connection between body and mind, and learn how this helps us to conquer pain and illness without recourse to drugs and medicines. We will show you, step by step, a number of techniques for focusing the mind's healing power upon any ailing part of the body. In relation to this, we also examine how the actions of the body can be used to aid and focus the mind, taking into account Yogic doctrines and martial training.

CREATING A NEW YOU

Our third and longest chapter presents a carefully coordinated series of physical and intellectual exercise systems which, if followed correctly, can turn YOU into a superhuman, fully in charge of your own destiny. All that is required is the desire for perfection and the will to achieve it. No special equipment or other hidden cash extras are necessary. The Veidt Method paves the way for a bright and hopeful future in which anyone can be a hero.

YOU AND THE WORLD

Just as you are a whole organic being, complete unto yourself, so are you also part of a larger social organism consisting of the people around you, the people you work with, and ultimately the whole world. When you yourself are strong and healthy in mind and body, you will want to react in a healthy and positive way to the world around you, changing it for the better if you are able, and improving the lot of both yourself and your fellow man. Our final chapter will help you to understand the organism that is the world, and your part in it. You will learn that one can either surrender responsibility for one's actions to the rest of the social organism, to be pulled this way and that by society's predominating tensions, or that one can take control by flexing the muscles of the will common to us all, affecting our environment positively and responsibly.

So, in conclusion, welcome to the Veidt Method for physical fitness and self-improvement, a step by step guide to realizing exciting potentials latent within every one of us. I hope that you'll be intrigued by what you find within, and I know that if you persevere you'll walk away from this book a different person.

There's a bright new world just around the corner. It's going to need heroes just as badly as this one does, and one of them could be YOU!

All best wishes and encouragement,

Adrian Veidt

Adrian Veidt

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illustrator/letterer

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colorist

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editor

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TERRI CUNNINGHAM
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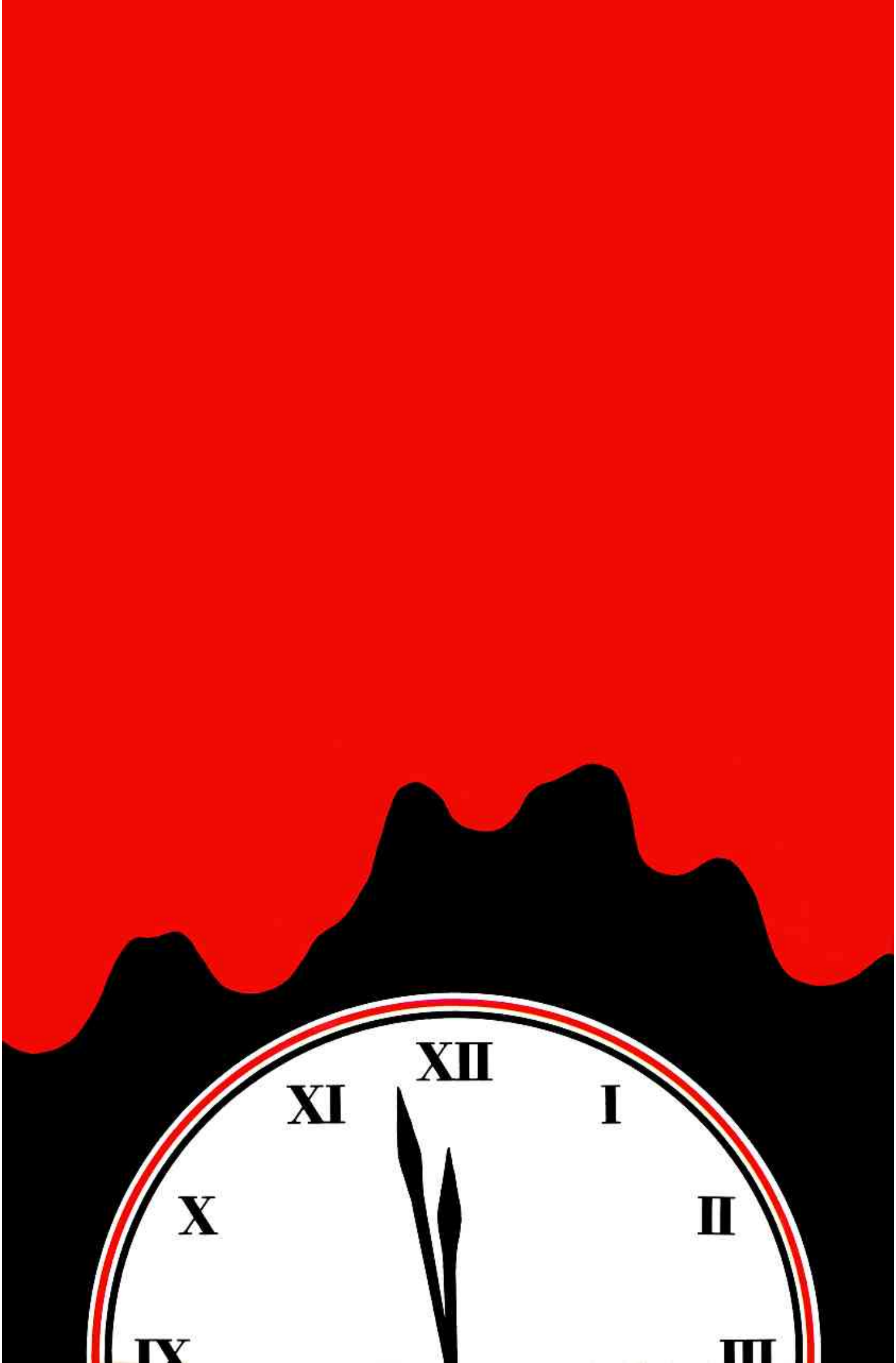
JOE ORLANDO
vp-creative director

ED SHUKIN
vp-circulation

BRUCE BRISTOW
marketing director

PATRICK CALDON
controller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TheKid
tag designed by
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